



MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Thursday, March 19, 2009 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Stephen Walko called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Stephen G. Walko, Chairman
Robert S. Stone, Vice Chairman
Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk
Nancy E. Barton
James S. Campbell
William R. Finger
William G. Kelly
Edward T. Krumeich, Jr.
Michael S. Mason
Arthur D. Norton
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Laurence B. Simon

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Peter Crumbine; Lin Lavery

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent, Board of Education; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Carolyn Baisley, Director, Health Department; Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief; Robert Kick, Assistant Fire Chief; David Ridberg, Police Chief

Mr. Walko gave an opening statement in which he thanked the First Selectmen, Finance Department, all of the department heads and appointing authorities, and the citizens who spoke at the Public Hearings concerning the budget. Mr. Walko gave an overview of the voting process.

PROPOSED FY 2009-2010 BUDGET

General Government

101 – Representative Town Meeting - \$12,800

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

102 – Ethics - \$1,500

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

104 – Emergency Operations - \$165,300

Amendment:

A104 51300	Temporary Salaries	(\$15,000)
A104 52020	Printing and Binding	(\$ 3,000)
A104 43400	Grant Revenue	\$ 25,000

Mr. Mason stated that the temporary salaries account has never been used and the remaining printing budget will be sufficient to print 22 copies of the emergency procedure books which will be updated every three years. Also, the grant revenues that defray part of the cost of the EMOC need to be recorded.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Stone, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

104 – Emergency Operations - \$147,300

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the item, as amended.

105 – Office of the Selectman - \$1,010,021

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

106 – Purchasing Department - \$999,553

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

107 – Administrative Services Center - \$689,012

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

109 – Human Resources - \$1,920,561

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

111 – Probate court - \$56,634

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

120 – Registrars of Voters - \$413,654

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

130 – Finance-Administration - \$1,806,648

Amendment:

A130 51300 Temporary Salaries (\$22,500)

Mr. Mason stated that this request is to correct a transposition error.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

130 – Finance-Administration - \$1,784,148

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the item, as amended.

131 – Retirement - \$1,842,030

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

134 – Information Technology - \$3,116,953

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

135 – Assessor - \$968,465

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

136 – Board of Assessment Appeals - \$45,400

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

139 – Tax Collector - \$533,295

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

140 – Law Department - \$2,370,791

Amendment:

A140 51010 Salaries (\$10,929)
A140 51300 Temporary Salaries \$17,166

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Stone, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

140 – Law Department - \$2,377,028

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the item, as amended.

150 – Town Clerk's Office - \$598,254

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

161 – Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals - \$139,540

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

170 – Condemnation Commission - \$2,500

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

171 – Planning and Zoning Commission - \$841,290

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

172 – Conservation Commission - \$244,416

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

173 – Inland Wetlands and Water Course - \$483,515

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

174 – Land Use Administration - \$293,555

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

195 – Commission on Aging - \$159,868

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

196 – Senior Center - \$634,852

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

General Government - \$19,316,143

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

201-208 – Fire Department - \$12,312,144

Amendment:

A204 51010	Salaries	\$18,000
A204 51100	Over Time	(\$18,000)
A205 51010	Salaries	\$110,000
A205 51100	Over Time	(\$110,000)

Mr. Mason stated that this request was to recognize the State arbitration settlement that provides for the creation of eight additional lieutenants to be promoted from within the ranks of firefighter and three additional deputy fire marshals, the cost of which will be offset by reduced over time. The changed staffing plan will also be reflected on the department's table of organization.

Mr. Krumeich stated that ordinarily if eight lieutenants were be added to the Fire Department it would have been presented to the Board ahead of time in the budget, there would have been public hearings, and the new positions would have been carefully considered. This has come as a settlement of a grievance, at the eleventh hour, which is very troubling.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

201-208 – Fire Department - \$12,312,144

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

211-217 – Police Department - \$17,918,453

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

301-351 – Public Works - \$20,251,730

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

380 – Vehicle Maintenance - \$2,855,311

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

401-425 – Health - \$2,120,325

Amendment:

A401 Various Expenses	\$5,550
A402 Various Expenses	(\$5,550)

Mr. Mason stated that this request was to move remaining funds from object code 402 to 401. There are still functions that will continue to be held, such as the senior health fair, employees' health fair, and other functions, even without Community Health (402). The expenses for those items in the 100's, 200's, and 300's have not been budgeted elsewhere. Also, to reduce non-salary accounts, since the function has been eliminated.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

401-425 – Health - \$2,120,325

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

440 – External Entities - \$3,574,829

Amendment:

A440 57224	\$748,576
A801 57210	(\$748,576)

Mr. Mason stated this request was to move the Town's contribution to the Bruce Museum, which has historically been located within the Parks and Recreation Department budget, to the new tab in the budget book which will be called External Entities, which will fall under the purview of the Office of the First Selectman.

Mr. Krumeich stated that this does not change the relationship between the Bruce Museum and Parks and Recreation Department. This is to recognize that it is an external entity.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

440 – External Entities - \$4,323,405

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

450 – Nathaniel Witherell - \$16,653,627

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

501-509 – Social Services - \$3,163,019

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

600-675 – Board of Education - \$125,999,932

Amendment:

A650 Various Maintenance	\$6,433,774
A640 Various Plant Operations	(\$6,433,774)

Mr. Mason stated that this request is to segregate the school maintenance expenses, excluding janitorial services, out of the routine Board of Education budget, creating a new object code for the purpose of tracking the major operational expenses of the schools and the maintenance upkeep as the Town moves toward its plan of consolidation of services.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Amendment.

600-675 – Board of Education - \$125,999,932

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

701-710 – Libraries - \$9,980,852

Amendment:

A701 51010 Salaries	\$17,812
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Mr. Mason stated that this request is for an adjustment because when positions were removed from the Library's table of organization, a vacant librarian with a salary of \$61,699 was eliminated instead of a full time clerk with a salary of \$43,887.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the amendment.

701-710 – Libraries - \$9,998,664

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

801-834 – Parks and Recreation - \$9,791,821

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

Fixed Charges

901 – Town Contributions for Employee Benefits - \$59,161,400

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

902 – Unemployment Comp and Workers Comp - \$3,392,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

908 – Payments for Insurance Coverage - \$3,014,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

911 – Sewer Taxes for Town Owned Facilities - \$430,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

926 – Non-Public School Bus Transportation - \$2,406,061

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

950 – Repayment of Debt, Principal and Interest - \$2,714,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

999 – Transfer to Other Funds - \$3,705,186

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

901-999 – Fixed Charges - \$74,822,647

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

General Fund - \$319,527,221

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Capital

General Government - \$140,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Fire - \$510,000

Mr. Walko stated that the importance of the King Street fire station certainly cannot be understated, and then he gave a brief history of the planning to date. Mr. Walko stated that it is important that this item not be bound to the timing of the budget process. As soon as a plan is developed for coverage for all of back-country Greenwich, in terms of locations and how the Fire Department is to proceed in deployment of volunteer and paid staff, the Board will welcome such a discussion and to assist in moving that process along outside of the budget process, for review and approval by the RTM. It is incumbent to work together try to find a solution, for the Department, for back-country Greenwich, and for all the citizens of the Town.

Mr. Krumeich stated that the Board supports improved fire and GEMS coverage for northwestern Greenwich. There is support for the King Street fire facility, but only in the context of a review of how the fire force is going to be staffed and deployed. The Board recognizes that in staffing the King Street station, a substantial number of additional firefighters would be added. The Board does not want to hold this project up and will consider an interim appropriation to move this project along.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Walko stated that meetings to discuss this matter are planned for before the end of this fiscal year.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Police - \$564,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Parking Services - \$32,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Public Works - \$9,833,000

Mr. Walko stated that concerning the John Street round-about, from the Department of Public Work's standpoint the architectural and engineering design that is needed for this project will be done in FY 2009-2010. He looks forward to the project's submission for the construction in FY 2010-2011.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Nathaniel Witherell - \$320,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Schools - \$7,768,000

Amendment:

823 59830	Organic Turf Program	\$131,000
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680 59560	Asbestos Abatement	(\$100,000)
680 59560	Flooring – Tiles	(\$ 31,000)

Mr. Simon stated that the Parks and Recreation Department originally requested \$394,000 for an organic turf program for the 74 acres of athletic turf, which includes all of the fields and park property in the Town. \$263,000 was for the schools playing fields requirements mandated by the State. This request is to reinstate the original amount requested.

Ms. Barton stated that she was opposed to the amendment because of a lack of sufficient information about the organic turf program. The town's fields should be maintained properly and she is also opposed to the use of pesticides. She questioned why the Town has to spend so much money; there has not been an adequate explanation.

Mr. Krumeich stated that this is very important. The Selectmen have voted on a policy to not use pesticides on any town playing fields, to go beyond the State mandate that just limited it to the schools playing fields. The maintenance of the Town's fields is very important for children, both from a safety point of view, but also from maintenance of infrastructure point of view. By not using pesticides and letting the fields grow naturally, without the organic turf program, the Town will not maintain the high quality, safe fields as they should be maintained.

Mr. Mason stated that he was opposed to this amendment. The State of Connecticut law was specifically targeted to K-8 athletic playing fields, not all schools or playgrounds. The Board of Selectmen added the high school fields and the town wide recreational athletic fields. The Budget Committee compromised by budgeting for the schools fields, not the town fields. Before the Board commits to a costly project going forward, more comparison information is needed.

Mr. Ramer stated that he was concerned about the expense for this program. His personal preference would be to continue one more year.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board voted 10-2-0 to approve the amendment (Nancy Barton, Michael Mason opposed).

Ms. Barton gave an explanation for a proposed condition of the \$394,000 for the organic turf program. Mr. Kelly stated that this is a reasonable request, since the costs have increased from \$15,000 to \$400,000 per year. Mr. Krumeich agreed with Ms. Barton that it is reasonable to request the information; however a condition on the appropriation is not necessary.

Mr. Finger stated that the Parks and Recreation Department would share a rather extensive study prepared by a consultant. It has already been determined that all 28 athletic fields will not get the same level of treatment. The fields have been rated with an A, B, and C designation, A being the highest treatment. Out of the 28 fields, only nine will get the A treatment, two will get the C treatment, and the remainder will get the B treatment. The Parks and Recreation Department, which recognized the deficiency in their knowledge of how to treat fields organically, obtained a consultant, who is an expert in this field and who did a very extensive analysis of each field. A report was prepared. Based on that report and the costs of maintaining the fields at the various standards (A, B, and C); the budget item was then presented to the BET. Mr. Siciliano indicated that he would give the report to the BET.

Mr. Mason stated that there should not be an issue with this condition, since this program will not start until the spring of 2010. Ms. Barton said that if it is agreed that the information is

important and relevant, she questioned what the Board would do when it gets the information and changes its mind, if there is no condition imposed. The purpose of the condition is to be able to pull the appropriation. If the Board grants the appropriation without the condition, what would it do then.

Upon a motion by Ms. Barton, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the Board voted 4-8-0 against a subject to release condition of the \$394,000 for the organic turf program upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of a detailed report from the Parks and Recreation Department concerning the costs of the program in FY 2009-2010 and thereafter, and any alternatives and/or reductions that might be available (Mr. Campbell, Mr. Krumeich, Ms. Tarkington, Mr. Walko, Mr. Stone, Mr. Simon, Mr. Norton, Mr. Finger opposed).

Schools - \$7,637,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

Libraries - \$113,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Parks and Recreation - \$1,186,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

Bond/BAN Acquisition and Interest - \$298,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Total Capital Fund - \$20,633,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

Total Overall Budget - \$340,160,221

Ms. Barton commended the Budget Committee for its hard and thoughtful work. While she hopes that the economy will turn around tomorrow, she doesn't believe it will. She summarized a list of the Town's attributes including the public school system, shoreline, beaches, islands, parks and open land, its social services system, nursing home, libraries, and art museum, and said that the Town should continue to support all of them.

Ms. Barton continued that the Town also has an infrastructure damaged by neglect, and listed deteriorated assets including roads and sidewalks, numerous bridges, school buildings, and the storm drainage system. She summarized that the Town should maintain and repair all of these assets.

She said that the Town has made some hard and unpopular choices including a portion of the town's workforce had to be laid-off, that further labor concessions are being sought, and that certain capital projects, including the central fire station, the high school auditorium, and music facility have been delayed.

Ms. Barton concluded that all residents must sacrifice. The Town has to cut back on things it wants, and that the taxpayers must bear its share through increased taxes to compensate for the downturn in the economy.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve, as amended.

361 – Sewer Maintenance Fund - \$6,503,120

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

361 – Sewer Improvement Fund to be Financed - \$11,200,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

219 and 318 – Parking Fund - \$3,026,866

Ms. Tarkington stated that the three part-time parking enforcement officers are the only new employees requested in the entire FY2009-2010 budget. At a time when both full-time and part-time employees have recently been laid-off, it presents an inconsistent message that the town will be hiring additional personnel for parking services. This department should defer hiring of additional staff until there is evidence of an economic turn-around. Currently in terms of its revenues the department is realizing actual revenues from parking meter collections, usage, and parking fines on an annualized basis, below its current budget. This is a mixed message, which would not allow her to support this particular department's budget as proposed.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 11-1-0 to approve (Ms. Tarkington opposed).

317 – Parking Fund – State Portion - \$325,012

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

670 – School Lunch Fund - \$4,135,055

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

824 – Griffith E. Harris Golf Course Revolving Fund - \$1,925,019

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

132 – Other Post Employment Benefits - \$7,275,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve.

RESOLUTIONS of the Board of Estimate and Taxation and Representative Town Meeting on FY 2009-2010 Budget


Ms. Barton gave an overview of the amendments made to the resolutions. A brief discussion followed concerning the language used.

Upon a motion by Ms. Barton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Resolutions, as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk of the Board



Stephen G. Walko, Chairman