



MINUTES of the Public Hearing of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk
Gregory Bedrosian
Robert Brady
William R. Finger
Sean Goldrick
Randall Huffman
Joseph L. Pellegrino
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington

Absent: Marc V. Johnson

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; David Theis; Drew Marzullo, Selectmen

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; John Crary, Town Administrator; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department; Robert Kick, Assistant Chief, Fire Department; James Heavey, Chief, Police Department; Amy Siebert, Commissioner of Public Works; David Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Denise Savageau, Conservation Director; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks and Recreation; Dave D'Andrea, Operations Manager, Griffith E. Harris Golf Course;

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the Budget process, and then he explained the format for the evening's Public Hearing regarding the proposed FY2014 Budget. Mr. Mason also explained the status of the MISA project and the Northwest Fire Station initiative, and he shared comments regarding the resolution of the Police Department staffing and budget issues.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ellen Murdock – Shared comments in support of the Police Department budget and the importance of maintaining public safety.

Pam Speer, Friends of High School Performing Arts – Shared comments in continued support of the MISA project.

Cindy Lyall, President-Elect, Junior League of Greenwich – Shared comments in support of the Greenwich Pool and Byram Park Project.

Sue Rogers, Co-Chair, Junior League Pool Project Committee – Shared comments in support of the Greenwich Pool Project, beginning with a land use approval process, expressed gratitude to

Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Finger, Joe Siciliano, and Al Monelli for their support, and shared information concerning the Byram Beach Clean-up on April 27, 2013.

Karen Fassuliotis – Shared comments concerning the CIP process, in opposition to the MISA, Byram Pool, and Cos Cob Park projects, as well as the FY 2014 Budget as presented, and in support of neighborhood traffic abatement.

John Blankley – Shared comments in support of traffic calming, increased funding for school's facilities maintenance, MISA, and long-term bonding.

Lisa Beth Savitz, President, PTA Council – Shared comments in support of the Board of Education budget, security and safety enhancements, MISA, digital technology, and BOE capital improvements.

Jennifer Meredith, Co-President, GHS PTA – Shared comments in support of BOE facilities and MISA.

Mary Radcliffe, President, Greenwich Symphony – Shared comments in support of MISA, and shared comments regarding the sub-standard conditions of the current facility.

Peter Quigley, RTM District 7 – Shared comments regarding prioritizing capital projects expenditures, storm drain infrastructure, and environmental obligations.

Vince DiMarco, Pemberwick/Glenville Neighborhood Association, CAPP – Shared comments in support of the Police Department budget.

Denise Savageau, Director, Conservation Commission – Shared comments regarding demolition of Seton House, highlighting the Commission's analysis concerning either historic restoration or historic demolition of the building.

Allen Williams, President, Northwest Greenwich Association – Shared comments in support of the Police Department Budget, backcountry safety, against the proposed reduction in the GEMS budget, and the necessity of a Northwest Fire Station.

Nancy Weissler, RTM District 5 – Shared comments in support of MISA.

Sam Romeo, CAPP – Shared comments in support of the Police Department Budget.

Bill Galvin – In a letter, delivered by Margaret Freiberg, in opposition to MISA, Central and King Street Fire Stations, Byram Pool, Cos Cob Park, Capital projects, and tax increases.

Valerie Stauffer – Shared comments in opposition of the FY 2014 Budget as presented, urging decreases, and expressed concerns with upcoming contract negotiations, Cos Cob Park, BOE digital technology initiative, and the BOE infrastructure.

Peter Tesei, First Selectman – Shared comments supporting the operating budget, in support of Police Department decisions in the budget and a Northwest Fire Station, in support of the Capital Budget's role in maintaining Town value, services and facilities, in support of the Cos Cob Power Plant action, in support of the current financing model, continued reserves and continued short-term borrowing, and noted upcoming challenges in healthcare and pension costs.

Mary Jacobson – Shared comments in opposition to MISA and concerns regarding environmental remediation costs.

Corrieta Katiela, Greenwich Symphony – Shared comments in support of MISA and continuing efforts to complete the project.

Mike Wacek, RTM District 11 – Shared comments in favor of long-term financing for capital projects coupled with a reduction in pension liabilities.

Margaret Freiberg – Shared concerns about the Retirement System, Nathaniel Witherell, remediation, MISA and increased property taxes.

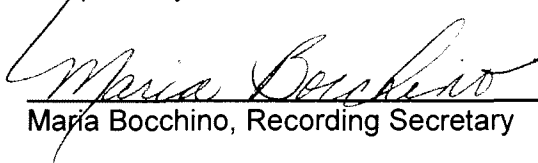
Despina Fassuliotis, RTM District 11 – Shared comments in opposition to MISA.

Mr. Mason shared comments regarding the numerous decisions to be made by the BET, then the RTM, and encouraged all present to remain involved in the process.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman