MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
William Drake, Clerk
John Blankley
William R. Finger
Sean Goldrick
Randall Huffman
Marc V. Johnson
Mary Lee A. Kiernan
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
Nancy Weissler

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

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Robert Kick, Assistant Chief, Fire Department; Dr. William S. McKersie, Superintendent of Schools; Ben Branyan, Managing Director of Operations; Amy Siebert, Commissioner of Public Works; David Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation; Thomas Greco, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; Melissa Brown, Senior Business Analyst

Other: Barbara O’Neill, Chairman, Board of Education; Steve Warzoha, RTM Member; Debbie Applebaum, Member BOE

Mr. Mason gave an opening statement as an overview of the evening’s agenda concerning the FY 2015-2016 budget and decision process. He then asked Mr. Drake to begin reading the Budget line items.

PROPOSED FY 2015-2016 BUDGET

101 – 196 General Government - $21,392,290
Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the General Government items 101-196 for $21,392,290.

201-208 – Fire Department - $14,486,169

Discussion: The Board considered the issues of adequate fire safety protection for the town and its career and volunteer firefighters and explored how additional firefighter staffing could be deployed if supplemented.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Blakely, to reinstate funding for additional firefighters, the Board voted 3-9-0 to approve the item. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Goldrick, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Johnson, Tarkin, Huffman)

Condition:
Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon the Greenwich Fire Department reporting to the BET quarterly on the progress of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Greenwich Fire Department and the Greenwich Fire Volunteer entities on issues relating to Greenwich combined career-volunteer fire service.

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 11-0-1 in favor of the condition. (Abstain: Blankley)

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 11-1-0 to approve the Fire Department line items 201-208 totaling $14,486,189. (Opposed: Blankley)

211-217- Police Department - $20,965,662

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Police Department line items 211-217 totaling $20,965,662.

301-351- Public Works - $20,613,218

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Public Works Department line items 301-351 totaling $20,613,218.

380- Vehicle Maintenance – $3,124,937

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Fleet Department line item totaling $3,124,937.

401-425 – Health Department – $2,337,558

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Health Department line items 401-425 totaling $2,337,558.
440 – External Entities - $6,017,770

Condition:
Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon receipt and acceptance by BET of a semiannual report from GEMS respecting its operations, personnel and finances. $4,386,000

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Huffman, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the condition.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the External Entities Budget line item 440 totaling $6,017,770.

501-509 – Social Services - $3,176,210

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Social Services Budget line items 501-509 totaling $3,176,210.

600 – 675 – Board of Education - $146,817,268

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Board of Education Budget line items 600-675 totaling $146,817,268.

701-710 – Libraries - $10,619,533

Discussion: The Board considered adding additional funds to keep the libraries open later on weekends. Several members suggested it was not timely to consider this item although they supported its objective. A future appropriation request from the Trustees or an emergency facilitation proposal through the HR Committee was recommended.

Upon a motion by Mr. Goldrick, seconded by Mr. Huffman, the Board voted 4-8-0 to approve the addition of $150,000 to extend weekend library hours. Motion failed. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Johnson, Finger, Tarkington)

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Libraries Budget line items 701-710 totaling $10,619,533.

801-834 Parks & Recreation – $10,600,855

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Blankley, to add $35,000 to the FY16 Budget to enhance public bathroom cleaning in the parks, the Board voted 2-10-0 to approve the item. Motion failed. (Opposed: Mason,
Weissler, Goldrick, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Johnson, Finger, Tarkington, Blankley)

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Parks & Recreation Budget line items 801-834 totaling $10,600,855.

999 - Transfer of other Funds (Ex Capital Projects) $2,400,000

Discussion: The Board considered whether or not conditioning the release of funds to Nathaniel Witherell was needed. Because of the increasing level of debt, negative cashflow predicated on an untested business plan and projections of the need for an increasing Town subsidy, concern was expressed about how the RTM would perceive the long term funding that might be required and the negative trend of the Nathaniel Witherell fund balance.

Condition:
Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon Nathaniel Witherell reporting on a quarterly basis plans and actions to date for reducing budget deficits. $2,400,000

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Drake, that Nathaniel Witherell should report quarterly to both the Budget Committee and the BET on debt reduction efforts, the Board voted 7-5-0 to approve the item. (Opposed: Goldrick, Finger, Ramer, Norton, Blankley)

901-999 - Total Fixed Charges - $133,295,490

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Total Fixed Charges item.

Total General Fund - $393,671,474

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Total General Fund appropriations.

CAPITAL BUDGET

213-921 - Police - $18,000

Amendment: To reduce Police Department budget for Dive Team equipment funding.

Reason:
The past two years of capital appropriation at $18,000 each, plus the interim appropriation in December 2014 applying grant funds, have purchased approximately ten sets of dive equipment, which is adequate.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, to delete $18,000 for additional Dive Team equipment, the Board voted 2-10-0 to approve the item. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Johnson, Finger, Tarkington, Huffman, Blankley)
302-59730 - Public Works - $150,000

Amendment: To increase the budget of the Binney Park Sedimentation Improvement Project.

Reason:

The Capital Plan shows $100,000 to be appropriated in FY17 for testing and permitting for dredging of the pond in FY18. In order to speed up the process, an increase of $150,000 is requested for FY16 budget year to carry out testing which will enable permits to be issued for the ultimate dredging of the pond.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, to amend Mr. Goldrick’s motion to condition the addition of $150,000 to Binney Park Sedimentation Improvement Project in FY16 based on the receipt of cost of testing, the Board voted 12-0-0 to remove the condition.

Upon a motion by Mr. Goldrick, seconded by Mr. Ramer the Board voted 12-0-0 to add $150,000 to the Binney Park Sedimentation Improvement Project.

312-960 - PW - Highways - Asphalt Paving of Streets - $1,000,000

Amendment: To increase PW - Asphalt Paving Program budget by $1,000,000

Reason:

The Department advises that they can pave up to $5 million in FY16 in light of the deteriorated condition of the Town roads and the unusually hard winter this year. It seems advisable to increase the $3 million capital appropriation to $4 million.

Upon a motion to amend by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 6-6 to approve the item as amended. Motion failed. (Opposed: Drake, Johnson, Mason, Norton, Tarkington, Weissler)

312- PW - Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility – $875,000

Amendment: To reduce funding by $875,000 for the Holly Hill Master Plan.

Reason:

This project is linked to the overall Holly Hill Master Plan Redevelopment Project and the Sewer Rehabilitation project in Public Works for $2,362,500. It is recommended that the Sewer project be deferred to a future year given DPW's heavy burden of current sewer projects ($20m appropriated but not spent for FY15 and prior years) and $8.6m (not including Holly Hill) planned for FY16. In addition, DPW will be busy completing soil remediation projects at GHS and Byram Park. It should also be noted that the First Selectman labeled the $875,000 Holly Hill project as “discretionary”.

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 8-4-0 to approve the item as amended. (Opposed: Kiernan, Blankley, Ramer, Finger)
Amendment: To Condition or Subject to Release funds for the Byram Park Pool Project.

Reason:
Further to the concept developed by Mr. Finger and Mr. Mason and discussed by the Budget Committee, the amendment adds to the conditions that a second option for the pool facilities (pools, pool equipment, buildings, fencing, retaining walls, decking, utilities connections, landscaping and contingencies) with an approximate cost of $6m be submitted to the BET for consideration.

**Condition and or SUBJECT TO RELEASE:**

$40,000 is immediately available for additonal architectural and engineering (A&E) services.

Up to $1,600,000 is subject to release upon review and approval by the BET of plans and contractor bids for remediation site work and plans and contractor bids for demolition of existing buildings and structures.

Up to $300,000 is subject to release upon review and approval by the BET for acceptable A&E plans (at least 90% completed) which include a second schematic option for pool facilities (pools, pool equipment, buildings, fencing, retaining walls, decking, utilities connections, landscaping and contingencies) with the approximate cost of $6m.

Up to $7,560,000 is subject to release upon review and approval by the BET of 1) cost estimates and contractor bids for post-remediation site work and construction of facilities; 2) review of bid documents by loss control engineers; and 3) pro forma operating plans and cost estimates.

Discussion: The Board members expressed their support of the Byram Pool Project but entertained alternative amendments for conditioning the funds. They affirmed their support for public/private partnerships to accomplish civic projects and recognized that the Junior League participation in this Project was significant. Documentation of costs and concerns about delays that would impact the readiness of the pool were discussed. It was stressed that it was necessary to focus on the ultimate goal of an improved park which has broad support.

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to amend the condition by appropriating $1,600,000 for A&E in FY16 with construction funding to come later, the Board voted 3-9-0 to approve the item as amended. (Opposed: Goldrick, Kiernan, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Finger, Ramer, Huffman, Blankley)

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to delete the phrase "with an approximate cost of $6m..."... and insert the phrase "...with a lower cost alternative...", the Board voted 6-6-0 to approve the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Tarkington)

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to insert the phrase "...the Junior League will report to the BET on their fundraising..."
effort as Conditioned monies are released...", the Board voted 1-11-0 to approve the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Goldrick, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Finger, Ramer, Huffman, Blankley)

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to condition the release of funds as originally proposed by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 9-3-0. (Opposed: Kiernan, Weissler, Goldrick)

Upon a motion by Mr. Goldrick, seconded by Mr. Mason, to condition the release of funds based on a "work in progress audit", the Board voted 2-10-0 to approve the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Finger, Ramer, Tarkington, Blankley)

680 - Board of Education - New Lebanon School $2,850,000

Ms. Kiernan and Ms. Tarkington proposed the following Condition:

Condition:

Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation in the following amounts and sequence:

1. (a) Upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of (i) the results of all environmental, wetlands or other testing and/or analysis conducted to date by or for the Board of Education on the properties surrounding or adjacent to the New Lebanon School in connection with this application, (ii) receipt of any changed educational specifications, (iii) explicit identification by the Board of Education of which Scheme the BOE has selected to move through the Town’s processes ("Selected Scheme"), and (iv) any other information and analysis requested by the BET, (b) $200,000 for MI referral of the Selected Scheme by the Board of Selectmen;

2. (a) Upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of MI referral of the Selected Scheme by the Board of Selectmen and appointment of the Building Committee by the RTM, (b) $800,000 for MI approval and Preliminary Site Plan Approval of the Selected Scheme by Planning and Zoning;

3. (a) Upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of MI approval and Preliminary Site Plan Approval of the Selected Scheme by Planning and Zoning, (b) $1.85 mm for continued A&E expenses for development of the Selected Scheme.

Discussion: The Board expressed appreciation for the work done to provide a process for moving forward with further consideration of the Project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the item as conditioned.

680 - Schools - Interior Carpentry, Building Envelope, Athletics - $475,000

Amendment: To delete $475,000 appropriation for the Capital Budget for 1) Interior Carpentry $300,000; 2) Building Envelope $50,000; 3) Athletics $125,000

Reason:

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Projects could be reduced or deferred to another fiscal year. They were not identified last year or in the regular maintenance plan.

Discussion: The Board considered the current investment in MISA required sufficient oversight for these new projects to be a distraction. While it was noted that these buildings were older and needed updating, it appeared that these changes could be postponed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 7-6-0 to approve the item as amended. (Opposed: Goldrick, Kiernan, Finger, Ramer, Huffman, Blankley)

**800 - Parks and Recreation – Turf Study - $40,000**

Amendment: To add funds for a Turf Study, to consider artificial turf for the three middle school fields.

Reason: This study would be a first step in responding to unmet demand townwide. Artificial turf would add additional playing fields to the inventory.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to reinstate Turf Study funding.

**812- Parks and Recreation – Skate Park Court Upgrade - $100,000**

Amendment: To delete $100,000 from $130,000, resulting in an appropriation of $30,000 for Skate Park design of a park upgrade.

Reason: Whereas the Board concurred that the Skate Park needs attention, the seasonal use of the park would prohibit beginning the work at this time.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 7-6-0 to approve the item as amended. (Opposed: Goldrick, Kiernan, Finger, Ramer, Huffman, Blankley)

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Finger to add a condition that upgrading begin during FY16, the Board voted 6-6 to approve the condition. Motion failed. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Norton, Drake, Johnson, Tarkington)

**450 – Nathaniel Witherell – Renovate 4 Tower Floors - $950,000**

Amendment: To reduce the $1,028,000 appropriation by $950,000.

Reason: Whereas the Board considered that the recent changes in the FY16 budget's revenue and expenses would produce a positive net difference, it seemed that there was a re-allocation from Capital Projects such as the new waterline, additional nursing equipment and Garden Floor renovation. More detail and additional census figures would be needed before appropriation can be restored.
Condition:
Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon receiving more detail and additional census figures to restore the additional appropriation.

Discussion: The Board members observed that conditions had already been placed on the transfer of funds to the Nathaniel Witherell earlier in the meeting. As a result, an additional condition might be duplicative.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 3-9-0 to approve the condition (In favor: Mason, Drake, Johnson).

361- Sewer Maintenance Fund – Holly Hill Sewer Rehabilitation - $2,250,000

Amendment: To eliminate $2,250,000 from FY16 budget for rehabilitation of Holly Hill sewer.

Reason:
This project is linked to the overall Holly Hill Master Plan Redevelopment Project. While important to the maintenance of the Town's sewer system, this project should be deferred to a future year given DPW's heavy burden of current sewer projects ($20m appropriated but not spent for FY15 and prior years) and $8.6m (not including Holly Hill) planned for FY16. In addition, DPW will be busy completing soil remediation projects at GHS and Byram Park.

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 8-4-0 to approve the item as amended. (Opposed: Kiernan, Blankley, Ramer, Finger)

Total Capital Fund - $54,735,000

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

Total General Fund Financing - $448,406,475

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

Means of Financing - $346,470,350

Discussion: The Board considered:

a. Eliminating the proposed transfer of $3,000,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund to the General Fund,
b. Increasing the tax levy by $2,447,000 and
c. Increasing borrowings by $553,000.

These items would change the mill rate increase from 2.03% to 2.75%.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 7-6-0 to approve these three items. (Opposed: Goldrick, Kiernan, Finger, Ramer, Huffman, Blankley)
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $12,549,972

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

Sewer Improvement Fund - $7,222,000

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

Nathaniel Witherell - $32,628,939

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

450 - Nathaniel Witherell – Supplemental Budget Submitted to BET Budget Committee 3-18-15

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 11-1-0 to approve the item. (Opposed: Mason)

670 – School Lunch Fund - $1,329,540

Condition:

Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon the BOE reporting to the BET quarterly on the development and implementation of a plan to restore the School Lunch Fund to a cash neutral position.

Reason:

The School Lunch Fund has become an increasingly large cash drain on the Town’s resources. The deterioration in its performance is due to an increasing percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches; a decision to forego funding from the National School Lunch Fund, which would have required the elimination of certain food items the District deemed popular; and food price increases. In response, the District assembled a task force to assess strategic options for the School Lunch Fund, including outsourcing.

Upon a motion by Mr. Blankley, seconded by Mr. Finger, to amend the condition by deleting the words “...to a cash neutral position...” and inserting the words “to ensure the School lunch fund is operating in the most efficient and cost-effective manner”, the Board voted 6-6-0 to approve the item. Motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Ramer)

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 9-3-0 to approve the condition. (Opposed: Blankley, Finger, Huffman)
219 and 310 – Parking Fund - $4,003,782

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the item.

824 – Griffith E. Harris Golf Course Revolving Fund - $1,988,338

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the item.

132 – Other Post-Employment Benefits - $3,655,000

Discussion: Ms. Kiernan temporarily withdrew a proposed condition and the Board discussed subject to release conditions and increasing the contribution to fully fund the ARC. The Investment Advisory Committee had prepared a policy which would allow for funding the ARC fully at the end of the year contingent on the General Fund balance being more than that of previous year. Given that the rate of return on the OPEB assets has been in the range of be 8% compared to the low returns earned on cash balances, it seems prudent to make a substantial contribution to the OPEB fund.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 11-1-0 to approve the use of fund balance after July 1, to fund OPEB’s ARC. (Opposed: Kiernan)

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Drake, to revise the total expenditures of the OPEB fund to $11,324,000, the Board voted 11-1-0 to approve the item. (Opposed: Kiernan)

RESOLUTIONS of the Board of Estimate and Taxation on FY 2015-2016 Budget

A.  RESOLUTION # 12 - Revise to read.

The Comptroller is authorized to accept insurance and FEMA proceeds that the Comptroller shall add to the appropriate fund accounts.

Reason:
To simplify language related to insurance proceeds.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkin, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to revise Resolution 12.

B.  Motion to Amend bonding Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of $40,412,00 Bonds
(maturity)

Amendment: The first sentence of Section 1 should be amended to read as follows (underline indicates new language):

“Section 1. To meet the portion of the approved capital budget appropriations for general public improvement and school projects in the capital budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 (the
Capital Budget Projects") $40,412,000 general obligation bonds of the Town are authorized to be issued in one or more series, maturing in annual installments of principal in compliance with the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended from time to time (the Connecticut General Statutes"), provided the final installment shall be due not later than the twentieth year after their date.*

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 6-6 to approve the bonding resolution. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Norton, Drake, Johnson, Tarkington)

C. Motion to add Bonding Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of $950,000 Bonds for the Renovation of the Nathaniel Witherell Tower Floors

Reason:
To authorize bonding of the FY16 appropriation for renovation of the Nathaniel Witherell Tower floors at twenty (20) years pursuant to the current Debt Policy and consistent with the 20 year financing of capital improvements associated with Project Renew.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 10-2-0 to approve the bonding resolution. (Opposed: Norton, Tarkington)

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer for the Law Committee, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept Medicaid reimbursement for School Treatment.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept all Resolutions as amended.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 10-2-0 to accept the FY16 Budget as amended. (Opposed: Goldrick, Huffman)

COMMENTS

Mr. Mason complimented all Board members on their dedication and expressed his appreciation for their contributions to the FY16 Budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Blankley, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

[Signature]
William Drake, Clerk of the Board