



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 20, 2017 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur Norton, Vice Chairman
William Drake, Clerk
John Blankley
Elizabeth K. Krumeich
James A. Lash
Leslie Moriarty
Jill K. Oberlander
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
Anthony Turner
Nancy Weissler

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Lauren Elliot, Assessor; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector

Mr. Mason welcomed BET members and attendees. He then called on Mr. Drake to read the Routine Applications.

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
LU-1	Land Use	Transfer
\$22,900	A173 51440	GIS Mapping Data Conversion

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0 to approve all the Routine Applications presented.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Ms. Elliot advised the BET that the Board of Assessment Appeals would soon complete their work and it appeared that the aggregate of adjustments that had been allowed, were below the estimate. To Mr. Norton's question about the status of pending real estate Grand List cases that had been settled, Ms. Elliot responded that six cases were scheduled for pretrial on Friday,

March 24; and one of the 2012 cases was scheduled for trial on April 4-5, 2017.

When asked about the status of the Assistant Assessor Vacancy, Ms. Elliot replied that although ten candidates had been interviewed, four would be called for second interviews.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Assessor's Report.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

Mr. Mynarski commented on the process of filling the vacant Risk Manager Position saying that fourteen applications had been received from which five highly qualified candidates had been selected for interviews. The interviewing committee included Ms. Pepe, Ms. Mahoney, and Mr. Mynarski. It was noted that two of the qualified candidates were internal candidates. The final selection of candidates would be interviewed by the Audit Committee, which BET members were invited to attend.

Mr. Mynarski was asked about the status of Retirement System interviews of the firms responding to the RFP for outsourced chief investment officer services. He commented that three firm interviews had been arranged for March 28 and 29th. He offered that the IAC and the Law Committee would consider the matter and that the BET would consider and approve the contract.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Comptroller's Report

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report Showing Investment Portfolio Activity for January 2016

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's Report.

BET Standing Committee Reports

None

BET Liaison Reports

None

BET Special Project Team Reports

None

New Business

Review and Approval of Resolutions for Elected Officials' Salaries

Mr. Mason asked Ms. Weissler to read the Resolutions individually. Ms. Weissler reported that the BET HR Committee had voted 3-0-1 for a 2% increase for the First Selectman and the two Selectmen.

First Selectman: Resolved that the First Selectman's salary be set at \$142,000 (a 2% increase) effective December 1, 2017 and \$144,840 (a 2% increase) effective December 1, 2018 and that the Selectmen's salaries be set at \$14,200 (a 2% increase) effective December 1, 2017 and \$14,484 (a 2% increase) effective December 1, 2018.

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Resolution.

Ms. Weissler reported that the BET HR Committee had voted 3-0-1 for a 2% increase for the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk: Resolved that the Town Clerk's salary be set at \$101,962 (a 2% increase) for 2018 and to \$104,002 (a 2% increase) for 2019.

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Resolution.

Ms. Weissler reported that the BET HR Committee had voted 2-0-2 for a 2% increase for the Tax Collector. Mr. Ramer indicated that a 2-0-2 vote was not an approval. He commented further that a vote to abstain was ignored in the BET's Policy & Practices Manual, whereas in Robert's Rules it was support. Mr. Mason responded that the motion passed on behalf of the HR Committee.

Mr. Ramer offered a motion to Amend, seconded by Ms. Moriarty. Mr. Ramer moved to delete the 2% increase for the Tax Collector and proposed that \$75,000 be the salary for each of the next two years. His rationale was (1) The Town already has a full time deputy tax collector, Brendan McDonough at \$101k and the Town does not need two full time tax collectors at above \$100k apiece, (2) The Town is spending more than half a million dollars per year to collect the taxes, which is too much, (3) The job can be adequately supervised by a part time tax collector, for which \$75,000 plus benefits is quite good pay, and other Town departments such as the Law Department and the Probate Court are managed by part time department heads, (4) The move to a part time tax collector is a sound midstep in the shift to an appointed tax collector reporting to the Finance Department, and (5) The job performance over the past year is a clear demonstration of what is wrong with having the tax collector be an elected position.

Ms. Weissler reminded the Board that the Tax Collector had made a reduction of two positions in the Department's Table of Organization and that the staffing was 30% lower than the Town of Fairfield. She added that Mr. Ramer's proposed change would require a Charter change. Ms. Oberlander supported Mr. Ramer's rationale. Ms. Moriarty concurred with Mr. Ramer saying that moving the position to report to the Finance Department made sense. Mr. Mason remarked that the conversation about whether the position should be elected or appointed, making the position part time and seeking a Charter change was outside today's topic. He asked for a vote on Mr. Ramer's Amendment.

The BET voted 4-8-0 to approve the amendment to reduce the salary of the Tax Collector to \$75,000 for each of two (2) years. Motion failed. (Opposed: Blankley, Drake, Krumeich, Lash, Mason, Norton, Tarkington, Weissler)

Tax Collector: Resolved that the Tax collector's salary be set at \$101,962 (a 2% increase) for 2018 and to \$104,002 (a 2% increase) for 2019.

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 8-4-0 to approve the Resolution. (Opposed: Moriarty, Oberlander, Ramer, Turner)

RTM Committee and District Assignments for April and May 2017

Mr. Mason asked that Board members, one from each party, attend Committee and District meetings in April, leading to the full RTM meeting on April 17, 2017. He recommended that if a member was unable to attend, that she or he find a substitute so that all Committees and Districts would be visited by BET representatives prior to the RTM May meeting. He requested that BET members attending meetings should circulate email summaries of the meeting they attended.

Old Business

None

Approval of the BET Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Oberlander, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting of February 21, 2017.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Mason reminded Board members about the time of the upcoming Public Hearing on March 23, 2017 scheduled for 7:00 P.M. and the location and time of the Decision Day meeting on March 27, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Cone Room.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Turner, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 7:02 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting of the BET is scheduled on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Cone Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman