MINUTES of the Public Hearing meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Thursday, March 23, 2017 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:01 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; Ben Branyan, Town Administrator; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation; Jay Domeseck, Director, Fleet Department; James Heavey, Police Chief; Thomas Klein, Director, Information Technology Department; Amy Siebert, Commissioner Public Works; Jim Michelle, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works; Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, Director, Greenwich Library; Joseph Williams, Deputy Director, Greenwich Library; Al Cava, Director, Labor Relations Department; Katie DeLuca, Director, Planning & Zoning; Dr. Alan Barry, Commissioner, Department of Human Services; Denise Savageau, Director, Conservation Commission; Tom Greco, Business Manager, Parks & Recreation; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector

Selectmen:

- Peter Tesei, First Selectman; John Toner, Selectman

BOE:

- Robert Stacy, Director, BOE HR; Stephen Walko, Chair, New Lebanon Building Committee; Clare Kilgallen, New Lebanon Building Committee Member

Public:

- Mary Lee Kiernan, Exec. Director, YWCA; Meredith Gold, Director, Domestic Abuse Services Program; Nicole Sowin, YWCA; Olivia Luntz and Olivia Aly, GHS Students, Y-Net Executive Committee; Barbara Bartlett, Health Teacher, GPS; Paul Settemeyer, Economic Advisory Committee (EAC); Donald Heller, EAC; Phil McIntyre, CEO, The Brand Gallery; Casey Roach, EAC; Leora Levy, Karin Nye, Janet Lockton, Hans Isbrandtsen, Mary Jacobson, Peter Berg, RTM Land Use Committee; Seth Kelland, Matt Popp, Alex Popp, Karen Fassuliotis, RTM D-
Mr. Mason welcomed BET members, TOG staff and members of the public. He summarized TOG's Budget process which announced its Budget Guidelines for FY 18 Budget in October 2016. He thanked Department heads, TOG Boards and Commissions for their contributions and noted that the RTM would receive the results of the effort for deliberation in April for its vote in May.

He asked the members of the Public who wished to speak, to use the sign-in materials and provide their requests to Mr. Mynarski who would be the official timer for the Publics' 3-minute remarks and Mr. Drake who would group the topics and announce the speakers.

**Speakers and Opinions Expressed**

Peter Tesei – In support of OFS FY18 Budget requesting BET support for several initiatives that ensure that Greenwich retains its reputation as a premier residential community where people choose to live, work and raise their families: 1) $30,000 to support a public/private partnership to establish a Greenwich Public Relations Initiative that showcases Greenwich to influence people to select Greenwich for residential and business relocations; 2) $100,000 to support funding in response to RTM’s expressed interest in seeing an updated external assessment of the Fire Services to understand current and future needs; 3) $18,000 to support the Safe Rides program delivered by TAG on most Fridays and Saturdays during the school year; 4) $60,000 to support the YWCA’s Domestic Violence Prevention Education Programs in Greenwich Public Schools that provide counseling, safety planning, crisis intervention and advocacy.

Mary Lee Kiernan – In support of $60,000 requested for the YWCA’s Domestic Violence Prevention Education Programs because the expertise is otherwise not available in the curriculum of public schools.

Meredith Gold – In support of $60,000 requested for YWCA’s Domestic Violence Prevention Education Programs that provide age appropriate counseling.

Nicole Theon – In support of $60,000 requested for YWCA’s Domestic Violence Prevention Education Programs to promote healthy relationships.

Olivia Luntz and Olivia Aly – In support of $60,000 for YWCA’s Domestic Violence Prevention Education Programs such as Y-net that develop student’s confidence and promote healthy outcomes.

Barbara Bartlett – In support of $60,000 requested for YWCA’s Domestic Violence Prevention Education Programs as a Middle School Wellness educator.

Paul Settelmeyer – In support of $30,000 requested for the Greenwich First Selectman’s Economic Advisory Committee’s proposed Public/Private Partnership for a Public Relations Initiative because he believes the Town’s share is critical to empowering the program to promote the vibrancy of the community.

Don Heller – In support of $30,000 requested for the EAC Public Relations Initiative.

Phil McIntyre – In support of $30,000 requested for the EAC Public Relations Initiative professional branding and marketing executive.
Casey Roach – In support of $30,000 requested for the EAC Public Relations Initiative as a long time Greenwich resident who wants the Town to continue to be among leading residential communities.

Leora Levy – In opposition to the $600,000 repair to the Steamboat Rd. pier because of expense, increased traffic and decreased quality of life.

Karen Nye – In opposition to the $600,000 requested for repair of the Steamboat Road pier as the Commodore of Indian Harbor Yacht Club. Ms. Nye suggested that a cost study, including the possibility of demolition of the pier would be more productive.

Janet Lockton – In opposition to the $600,000 requested for repair of the Steamboat Rd. pier because it would change the use from a passive to an active function that requires a Municipal Improvement status.

Hans Isbrandtsen – In opposition to the $600,000 requested or repair of the Steamboat Rd pier because of the liability caused by fishermen who hook boats and can injure bystanders.

Mary Jacobson – In opposition to the $600,000 requested for repair of the Steamboat Rd. pier because of safety and parking issues.

Peter Berg – In opposition to the planned removal of trees necessitated by the size and location of the future New Lebanon School. Additionally, Greenwich's Open Space inventory is only 50% of its goal and removal of the trees reduces the Open Space inventory further.

Scott Kelland – In opposition to the Budget cut to the Tax Collector's Department.

Matt Popp – In opposition to the large size of the future New Lebanon School when there are 937 empty classroom seats in the school district.

Clare Kilgallen – In support of the future New Lebanon School as a magnet school.

Alex Popp – In opposition to the future New Lebanon School because of excess capacity within the school district.

Karen Fassuliotis – In opposition to the PR Initiative in the First Selectman’s Budget. In opposition to renovation of the Steamboat Rd. pier.

Patti Jomo – In support of the BOE Budget that maintains the number of students in a classroom by policy. In support of a feasibility study for Cardinal Stadium.

Stephen Walko – In support of the budgeted amount for construction of the New Lebanon School including the costs of using the current school during construction of the new one. Simultaneously there will be no need for the earlier appropriation for offsite temporary modular classrooms, so it will lapse. As a result, the total budget for the future New Lebanon School is unchanged.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 8:27 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

William Drake, Clerk of the Board

Michael S. Mason, Chairman