



MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation Decision Day Meeting held on Monday, March 27, 2017 in the Cone Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 5:07 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

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

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Ben Branyan, Town Administrator; Amy Siebert, Commissioner of Public Works; James Michel, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation; Thomas Greco, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector; Thomas Klein, Director, IT Department; Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, Director, Greenwich Library; Joseph Williams, Deputy Director, Greenwich Library; Allen Brown, Director, The Nathaniel Witherell

BOE: Peter Sherr, Chairman, Board of Education; Salvatore Corda, Superintendent of Schools, BOE; Barbara O'Neill, Member, BOE; Debbie Appelbaum, Member BOE; Laura Erickson, Member, BOE; James Hricay, Managing Director of Operations, BOE; Ron Matten, Director of Facilities, BOE,

RTM: Lucia Jansen, RTM D-7, Chair BOC; Dan Ozizmir, RTM D-5, BOC; Joe Solari, RTM, D-8; Andy Duus, RTM D-5

OTHER: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; James Aiello, EAC; Don Heller, EAC; Paul Settlemeyer, EAC; Sabine Schoenberg, EAC; Robin Kencel, EAC; Janet Lockton, Ann Thaxter, Jane Ryan, Evelyn Bausman

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the evening's agenda concerning the FY 2017-2018 Budget and the BET's decision process. He then asked Mr. Drake to read the Budget line items. Mr. Mason indicated that each line item of the Budget did not need to be seconded individually. He added that in a Departmental section, if no BET member had proposed an amendment, Mr. Drake would only read the total line of expenditures for the Department. Items on which Board members discussed budget amendments are identified below with the relevant votes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING

A105-51490 Office of the First Selectman – (\$30,000)

Program: Economic Development Marketing
Reason: Inappropriate expenditure of funds. Delete program.

- **Motion** Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turner, to delete the \$30,000 expenditure. The Board voted 3-9-0 to delete the Economic Development Marketing funding. Motion failed. (Opposed: Blankley, Drake, Krumeich, Lash, Mason, Moriarty, Norton, Oberlander, Tarkington)

A105-51490 Office of the First Selectman - \$30,000

Program: Economic Development Marketing
Reason: The First Selectman believes that Greenwich would benefit from assistance from a public relations initiative to combat negative press and promote the many attributes of the Town. The proposal is to provide partial funding and oversight to an outside group consisting of local businesses and realtors. Since the specific Workplan has not yet been developed, it makes sense to condition the funds upon receipt of matching funds and development of the Workplan.

Condition: Subject to release upon receipt of matching funds and review and approval of the Objective and Workplan.

- **Motion to Condition:** Mr. Lash made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to condition the release of \$30,000 for Economic Development Marketing. The Board voted 10-2-0 to approve the item Subject to Release based on conditions. (Opposed: Blankley, Turner)

A139-51010 and 139 5130 Tax Collector - \$32,099

Ms. Weissler, as the Chair of the HR Committee, offered the following motion:

Reason: Two full-time positions (one Accounting Clerk 1 position and one Accounting Clerk 2 position) from the Table of Organization for the Tax Collector Office were eliminated at the recommendation of the Tax Collector. The budgeted salaries for these positions total \$132,099. After accounting for the \$100,000 of salary reductions, an amount of \$32,099 will be available to be transferred to temporary salaries. This amount is sufficient to fund a .71FTE (25 hours/week). The resulting Table of Organization for the Tax Collector's Office will be: 1 Tax

Collector; 1 Deputy Tax Collector; 2 Accounting Clerk 1 positions; and 0.98 FTE in temporary/part time positions for a total of 4.98 FTE (this compares to the current 6.27 FTE).

- **Motion to Amend** – Mr. Ramer then made a motion to amend, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to not transfer the \$32,099 to temporary salaries but to delete it. The Board voted 1-11-0. Motion failed. (Opposed: Blankley, Drake, Krumeich, Lash, Mason, Moriarty, Norton, Oberlander, Weissler, Turner, Tarkington).
- **Vote on Original Motion** – Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the HR Committee motion.

A208-57218 Fire Department - \$1,212 and 208-57219 Fire Department - \$2,800

Reason: To increase Contribution to Round Hill Fire Station by \$1,212, and Contribution to Banksville Fire Station by \$2,800 for a 2% increase in the Town's contribution to each and a total Town Contribution increase of \$4,012

- **Motion** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blankley, to increase the budget of the Round Hill Fire Station and the Banksville Fire Station by 2% respectively for a total of \$4,012 Town Contribution. The Board voted 10-2-0. (Opposed: Moriarty, Oberlander)

A440-57221 External Entities TAG (\$6,202)

Reason: The Budget for External Entities is up 3.5% in the FY18 proposed budget (adjusting for the Youth Coordinator position that has been transferred to Social Service), far in excess of the recommended budget guideline increase of 2%. In addition the budget guidelines allow for variations in increases among operating budgets provided a weighted average increase of 2.0% is achieved. It would seem excessive to fund an increase in TAG that is 5.3%, more than double the recommended guideline increase.

- **Motion** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to reduce the Town Contribution to TAG by \$6,202, seconded by Ms. Weissler. The Board voted 7-6-0 to approve the reduction. (Opposed: Blankley, Krumeich, Oberlander, Moriarty, Ramer, Turner)

A440-57221 External Entities – TAG

Condition: Subject to release of \$93,698 upon mid-year review and approval of operating and financial performance.

- **Motion** – Ms. Moriarty made a motion to Condition the release of \$93,698 upon a mid-year review and approval of operating and financial performance, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Board voted 11-1-0 in favor of the motion. (Opposed: Blankley)

A440 57225 External Entities – GEMS - \$4,655,800

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

- **Motion** - Ms. Tarkington made a motion to Condition the release of \$2,000,000 of the Town Contribution upon a mid-year review and approval of operations, personnel, and finances, seconded by Ms. Weissler. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the motion.

A440 57231 External Entities – Safe Rides (\$18,000)

Reason: To delete \$18,000 Contribution to Safe Rides

- **Motion** – Ms. Weissler made a motion to delete \$18,000 from the External Entities budget, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Board voted 3-9-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Blankley, Krumeich, Norton, Lash, Mason, Moriarty, Oberlander, Ramer, Turner)

A440 57233 External Entities – YWCA Violence Prevention Education Program (\$60,000)

Reason: The budget for External Entities is up 3.5% in the F18 proposed budget (adjusting for the Youth Coordinator position that has been transferred to Human Services), far in excess of the recommended budget guideline increase of 2.0%. Whereas the budget guidelines allow for variations in increases among operating budgets provided a weighted average increase of 2.0% is achieved, it would seem ill-advised to fund an increase in External Entities that is almost double the recommended guideline increase.

- **Motion** – Ms. Weissler made a motion to delete \$60,000 for the YWCA program, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Board voted 4-8-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Blankley, Krumeich, Mason, Moriarty, Ramer, Oberlander, Turner, Lash)

A501-57210 Department of Human Services \$100,000

Reason: To increase the DHS budget by \$100,000 to prepare for the impact of drastic budget cuts at both the federal and state levels on the Town's human service agencies, with effect on services to low income clients.

- **Motion** – Mr. Turner made a motion to add \$100,000 to the Department of Human Services budget, seconded by Ms. Oberlander. The Board voted 6-7-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed Drake, Lash, Mason, Norton, Tarkington, Weissler)

A600 Non Public School Costs \$4,198,491

Reason: As per the Peter Tesei Memo 6-6-16, this amendment moves BOE expenses into the BOE resulting in a more accurate representation of the BOE costs.

- **Motion** – Mr. Mason made a motion to move identified BOE expenses from the Town Budget to the BOE Budget, seconded by Ms. Tarkington.

A134 57600	\$ 246,888	BOE Fiber Optic network
A213 51920	\$ 196,560	School Crossing Guards
A216 51920	\$ 96,437	School Resource Officer
A410 51010	\$ 150,000	Dental Hygienists
A908 51692	\$ 228,500	BOE Specific Insurance
A911 57500	\$ 449,300	Sewer Taxes
A926 57600	\$2,830,806	Non Public School Costs

- **Motion to Amend** – Mr. Norton made a motion to delete \$228,500 for Insurance from the items, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Board voted 5-7-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Krumeich, Lash, Mason, Moriarty, Ramer, Tarkington, Turner)
- **Motion to Table** – Mr. Turner made a motion to table the transfer of charges to the BOE accounts until next year, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Board voted 7-5-0 in favor of the motion. (Opposed Drake, Mason, Norton, Tarkington, Weissler)

A911 57500 Fixed Charges – Sewer Taxes - \$60,000

Reason: Final Town sewer property values require an increase in the contribution to the Sewer Funds.

- **Motion** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to increase the contribution by \$60,000 for Sewer taxes on Town properties, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Z105 59730 Selectman's Capital Budget (\$100,000)

Reason: Delete Fire Study funding. The Town has made decisions towards Fire Fighting Services over the past 3 budgets: 1) not to fund a new NW Station; 2) not to add additional Career Staff. The Town has had initiatives requested by the Fire Chief that have been approved and were to improve Volunteer recruitment, retention and participation. The implementation has been minimal. The Town Firefighting force is well equipped. The Town spends more than peer communities on Fire Fighting equipment. There are known areas without the study that could be addressed that will add to the current knowledge pool, ie. a system that accurately measures attendance, arrival time etc. for Fire Personnel at calls, drills, etc.

- **Motion** – Mr. Mason made a motion to delete \$100,000 for a new Fire Study, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Board voted 5-7-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed Blankley, Krumeich, Lash, Moriarty, Oberlander, Ramer, Turner)

Office of the First Selectman Capital Project Fire Services Study \$100,000

Reason: The Fire Services Study provides an opportunity for an objective evaluation of the Fire Services as they are currently delivered and for alternatives on possible ways to improve this service. The following condition is being proposed to

ensure alignment with expectations, including the request for recommendations to be a series of alternatives, each with the costs/benefits identified.

- **Motion to Condition** – Ms. Moriarty made a motion to condition the release of funds for the Fire Study upon:
 - 1) Review and approval of the scope and deliverables as presented in the RFP
 - 2) Establishment of an oversight Committee of representatives from the OFS, Fire Department, BET (2 members) and the RTM Town Services Committee (2 members); and
 - 3) Completion of arbitration proceedings with the IAFF.
- Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the motion to condition the release of funds.

A206 59560 Fire Department A&E Reinstatement \$100,000

Reason: Round Hill fire station is a key component of fire service coverage in North central Greenwich and is in desperate need of renovation. The station is 60 years old and does not meet fire code – an unacceptable state of affairs for a fire house. Renovation will undoubtedly help ongoing recruitment of new generation of volunteers. The fire service study which is proposed to be funded elsewhere in this budget should not be used as a reason to delay this project. No study will contradict the finding that the RH station is well-situated and that its renovation is vitally necessary and long overdue.

- **Motion** – Mr. Blankley made a motion to reinstate \$100,000 to this budget for A&E funding for the Round Hill fire station, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Board voted 7-6-0 in favor of the reinstatement. (Opposed: Moriarty, Ramer, Turner, Weissler, Drake, Oberlander)

312 960 DPW Highway Paving (\$1,000,000)

Reason: Reduce the paving budget. A \$1,000,000 reduction will still provide an increase over last year and should be sufficient to maintain adequate road quality.

- **Motion** – Mr. Mason made a motion to reduce the annual paving budget by \$1,000,000, seconded by Mr. Norton. The Board voted 7-5-0 in favor of the motion. (Opposed: Blankley, Krumeich, Moriarty, Ramer, Oberlander)

312 Public Works – Highway Division; Capital Improvement – (\$500,000)

Reason: Delete Greenwich Avenue Streetscape and Repaving Implementation due to timing and size of request.

- **Motion Withdrawn** by Mr. Turner

A312 960 Public Works – DPW Highway Division – Greenwich Avenue Streetscape and Repaving Implementation \$375,000 (Condition)

Reason: This project is complex and important. The public should have an opportunity to

comment on the proposed plan.

Condition: Final Design Funding of \$300,000: Subject to release upon acceptance of report describing updated

- I. Street and intersection lighting plan
- II. Process for design inclusiveness of businesses, residents, Town services
- III. Cost effectiveness (preliminary detailed cost summary)

- **Motion to Condition** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to condition the streetscape study, seconded by Ms. Weissler. The Board voted 2-10-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Norton, Weissler, Blankley, Drake, Krumeich, Lash, Mason, Moriarty, Ramer, Oberlander)

DPW was asked to return to the BET with an update when half the funding was spent.

A312 9620 Public Works – DPW Highway – Oneida Drive Bridge Replacement (\$2,250,000)

Reason: To defer until FY19 (as planned in FY17 Budget)

- **Motion** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to delete the bridge replacement funding. No second to the Motion.

A312 973 Project 15-24 Public Works DPW Highway – Steamboat Road Landing (\$600,000)

Reason: To defer to evaluate construction plan against other construction alternative to ensure safety of use and residents.

- **Motion** - Ms. Tarkington made a motion to defer funding. Motion withdrawn.

A15-24 Public Works Repair and upgrade of the Steamboat Road Landing \$600,000

Reason: The BET had heard from a number of residents via email and at the public hearing about their safety concerns with the current usage of the Landing which includes fishing, pedestrian usage, and nearby boating.

- **Motion to Condition** – Ms. Weissler made a motion to condition project funding subject to release upon risk assessment, seconded by Mr. Drake. Motion withdrawn.

A680 59560 Schools – Consultant Fees for Next FY Capital Projects (Advanced A&E) \$100,000 Condition

Reason: Advance A&E is critical for timely completion of all maintenance and special project facilities improvements during the school summer break. The additional \$100,000 in FY18 (over \$450,000 requested in both FY16 and FY17) has been requested by the BOE as an abundance of caution to ensure funds are available for additional architectural consultant services if needed to maintain calendar deadlines required for timely completion of design.

Condition: Subject to request by BOE Operations (Facilities) for need.

- **Motion** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to Condition the release of Advanced A&E funding subject to need, seconded by Mr. Lash. The Board voted 7-6-0 in favor of the motion. (Opposed: Blankley, Krumeich, Moriarty, Oberlander, Ramer, Turner)

822 59830 Parks & Recreation Artificial Turf (\$100,000)

Reason: Delete Parks & Recreation project for Artificial Turf – Teufel Field and Middle Schools. The unknowns associated with the use of artificial turf, including the possibility of future negative health impacts, coupled with the high cost of the product (\$1.8 Million) does not justify the project at the present time.

- **Motion** – Ms. Oberlander made a motion to delete \$100,000 for the A&E for Artificial Turf, seconded by Mr. Turner. The Board voted 2-10-0. Motion failed. (Opposed: Blankley, Krumeich, Weissler, Norton, Drake, Lash, Mason, Moriarty, Ramer, Tarkington)

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

Resolution for STEAP Grants

Reason: The change takes into account the Town's ability to accept funds for external entities.

Amended Budget Resolution: The First Selectman is authorized to apply for and accept grants on behalf of the Town and external entities from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) in accordance with C.G.S. § 4-66g as amended by Public Act 07-7 Section 41 and C.G.S. § 4-66c as amended by Public Act 07—7, Section 40, and such grants shall become appropriations upon approval by the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

- **Motion to Amend a Budget Resolution** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion for the Law Committee that the Town may apply for and accept grants on behalf of the Town and external entities from STEAP as is current practice. The Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion.

MISA Gift Resolution

Reason: With the completion of the MISA project, and Campaign for MISA, Inc.'s delivery of funds has concluded, the entity is now dissolved. The resolution is no longer needed.

- **Motion to Delete a Budget Resolution** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion for the Law Committee to delete the Budget Resolution for Campaign for MISA, Inc.'s MISA project gifts. The Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion.

BOE – Athletic Gifts Resolution

Reason: To facilitate donations for BOE athletic improvements.

New Budget Resolution: The Board of Education is authorized to accept appropriate gifts of

athletic equipment and improvements to indoor and outdoor athletic facilities (“Gifts”), provided that a) any such Gifts of improvements to athletic facilities shall comply with all Town and Board of Education policies and procedures and purchasing and contracting requirements (including insurance and indemnification), be overseen by the Board of Education’s Finance and Operations Department, comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and have all necessary Federal, State and local land use, environmental and other governmental approvals in place prior to the start of work; and (b) donations of cash shall become appropriations which the Comptroller shall add to the appropriate accounts upon approval by the Board of Estimate and Taxation. The installation of any such Gifts shall be overseen and supervised by the Board of Education and/or the Town. The Board of Education shall submit to the Comptroller and the Board of Estimate and Taxation an annual report itemizing these Gifts and donation.

- **Motion to amend** – Mr. Mason made a motion to delete the phrase “upon approval by the Board of Estimate and Taxation”. No second to the motion.
- **Vote on Original Motion to Add a Budget Resolution** presented by Ms. Tarkington for the Law Committee to add the BOE athletic improvements Budget Amendment. The Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion.

Motion to Amend Bonding Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$35,384,000 Bonds (maturity)

Reason: Bonding Resolution for Capital Appropriations – to provide the BET and the Comptroller with discretion to bond at different maturities on select projects, not exceeding twenty years. Given the significant withdrawal of funds from the State of Connecticut and changes in the Grand List of the Town, to provide greater flexibility for the BET to address general public improvement and school projects in the capital budget for both fiscal year 2017-2018 and future capital budgets.

- **Motion to Amend a Bonding Resolution** – Ms. Krumeich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer as follows: The first sentence of Section 1 should be amended to delete the word “fifth” in the 7th line and replace it with the word “twentieth” and shall read as follows (word in bold 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 2017-2018 (“Capital Budget Project”) , \$35,384,000 general obligation bonds of the Town are authorized to be issued to 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 Statues”) provided the final installment shall be due not later than the **twentieth** year after their date.”

The Board voted 6-6-0 on the motion. Motion failed. (Opposed: Drake, Lash, Mason, Norton, Tarkington, Weissler)

After Mr. Gieger recalculated the changes effected by the various votes, upon motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the General Fund operating budget as amended in the amount of \$412,888,556, and the General Fund capital

budget as amended in the amount of \$44,336,000.

The Board also voted 12-0-0 to approve the appropriations in the Sewer Maintenance Fund, the Sewer Improvement Fund, the Nathaniel Witherell Fund, the School Lunch Fund, the Parking Fund including the State portion, the Griffith Harris Revolving Fund, and the OPEB and Retirement Funds in the amounts as presented, without changes or amendments.

Mr. Mason, as the Board of Estimate and Taxation Chairman, thanked members of the Board for having agreed to increase the Capital Tax Levy by \$3 million, and approving a budget which showed a Mill Rate increase of 1.99%.

He expressed his appreciation for 100% attendance of BET members at the Budget Committee Departmental Hearings and extended his thanks to Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Gieger for their work in assisting the BET in completing the FY18 Budget. He reminded BET members that RTM Committee meetings begin the week of April 3, 2017.

Each member of the BET remarked positively on the experience of producing the FY18 budget and expressed their thanks and appreciation to Department heads and Finance Department staff for the caliber of work invested in facilitating the process.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Turner, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 10:04 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