



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 28, 2022 in the Town Hall Meeting Room and as a Zoom webinar in Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Dan Ozizmir called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman
Michael Basham, Vice Chairman
Nisha Arora, Clerk
William Drake
Laura Erickson
Karen Fassuliotis
Miriam Kreuzer
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Stephen Selbst
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod

Staff: Jenny Larkin, Information Technology (IT) Department (Dept); Katie DeLuca, Director, Planning & Zoning Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Public: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Leslie Yager, Publisher, Greenwich Free Press; Don Conway, GCTV

The Chairman, Dan Ozizmir, welcomed Board members, Town staff and the public to the 2022 Public Hearing on the Town's FY2022-2023 Budget. He thanked the public for their interest in the meeting and noted that 100 online Comment Forms have been received that will be circulated to the Board. The Comment Forms will be with the permanent record of the meeting Minutes and will be accepted until midnight tonight. The Public Hearing is an opportunity for the Board to learn residents' expectations and priorities to assist in balancing needs and priorities at its Tuesday, April 19, Decision Day meeting.

The Town's Budget process commenced with the Board of Estimate & Taxation's (BET) adoption of its Budget Guidelines for the FY2022-2023 in October 20, 2021. The Chair thanked Department heads, Town Boards and Commissions for their contributions and noted that the Board would vote on the FY2022-2023 Budget and then submit it to the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) for its vote at the RTM's May meeting.

Ms. Arora invited members of the audience who wished to speak, to sign-in on the Speakers' List. When called upon, the speaker is asked to introduce themselves, add the name of the organization, group, or location of their residence. Remarks will be limited to three minutes to allow time for everyone to speak. Each speaker may speak once, and if time permits after everyone had spoken, will be allowed to speak a second time.

Public Hearing

1. Alan Gunzburg – Chair, First Selectman’s Advisory Committee on Disabilities – spoke in opposition to the format of the Public Hearing that was not allowing Zoom participants to speak. He spoke in support of acceptable and inclusive programming.
2. Stephanie Cowie – spoke in favor of funding the Parks & Recreation Department’s ADA Master Plan; spoke in favor of capital funding for Old Greenwich and Central Middle School A&E planning to include ADA planning that will be inclusive and acceptable; spoke in opposition to the Public Hearing format that did not accommodate all meeting participants speaking.
3. Debbie Kolman – RTM (D-10), BOC Committee - spoke in opposition to additional “bump Outs” on Greenwich Avenue; spoke in opposition to reducing Greenwich Avenue further with additional “bump outs”; spoke in favor of returning Police to manage traffic on Greenwich Avenue.
4. Barbara Ormerod-Glynn – Executive Director, Greenwich Library – spoke in support of restoring \$50 thousand to the FY2023 Budget to upgrade the Library’s Innovation Lab; in support of additional funds for digital equity for 21st Century workforce skills.
5. Brooks Harris – RTM (D-10) Finance Committee - spoke in opposition to enlarging schools without more information on future enrollment.
6. Laura Darrin – Greenwich resident – spoke in opposition to spending on future “bump outs” on Greenwich Avenue without listening to merchants and residents.
7. Alyssa Keleshian – spoke in opposition shortage of parking created by “bump outs” without credible research of comparable towns.
8. Kiera Lynch – spoke in opposition to the lack of support for prioritizing schools.
9. Gabby Ratner – Executive Director, Community Centers – spoke in support of additional digital resources and programming to encourage children’s creativity and in support of the Innovation Lab at Greenwich Library.
10. Beth MacGillivray – spoke in support of trimming the \$86 - \$92 million Capital Budget for non-essentials such as wood chipper, sidewalks, traffic signals, “bump outs” and Board of Education parking lots; spoke in support of BET Budget Guidelines of Capital spending of \$70 million
11. Mita Spilo – spoke in opposition to out-of-control-spending; spoke in opposition to Greenwich Avenue “bump outs”; spoke in support of storm water projects, upgrading school buildings, HVAC projects and the transparency of American Rescue Plan spending.
12. Joe Solari – spoke in support of using Town budget to protect Greenwich from Hartford; spoke in support of Greenwich’s low taxes.

13. David Chass –President, Round Hill Fire Station – spoke in opposition to underfunding compared to Banksville Station; spoke in opposition to reduction of \$40 thousand cut from its annual Town grant for FY23 and \$150 thousand in FY24.
14. Hilary Haroche – RTM (D-10) Town Services Committee - spoke in support of full funding for Round Hill Fire Station in recognition of the savings due to all volunteer firefighters; spoke in support of adding \$37 thousand to the Town grant for operating costs.
15. Beth Eaton – Board member – Old Greenwich Yacht Club- spoke in support of dredging the channel which is creating a safety issue.
16. Ramya Hopley – spoke in support of spending Greenwich taxes on job creation, supporting small businesses, promoting academic excellence in schools; spoke in opposition to allocating Public resources of the American Rescue Plan for Affordable Housing.
17. Robert DeAngelo – spoke in support of creating and East-West Route #1 protected bike lane.
18. Jane Sprung – RTM (D-10) - spoke in support of Storm water/sewer projects, Central Middle School rebuilding, ADA Master Plan for Parks; spoke in opposition to HVAC installation for The Nathaniel Witherell, Affordable Housing Trust without private donations; and providing funds to risky developers.
19. Peter Schweinfurth – First Selectman’s Energy Management Committee – spoke in support of Parking Services electric car charges, electric vehicles for the Police Department, Parking Canopy for solar energy system.
20. Carl Griffasi – RTM (D-9) – spoke in repairing drainage issue in Pemberwick Park, West Lyons Farm, expansion of retention ponds; spoke in opposition to devaluation of residential properties and undersized baseball diamond.
21. Nancy Chapin – spoke in support of Binney Park Master Plan and Tuchman Park Plan; and suggested plan would help guide possible future spending on restroom facilities
22. Lucia Jansen – RTM (D-7) BOC - spoke in opposition to spending more than the Budget Guidelines for Operating Budget, \$240,000 more for headcount in BOE, Capital Budget beyond FY23 expectations.
23. Abbe Large – Glenville Beautification Task Force - spoke in support of \$500 thousand for Glenville street lighting project, dovetails with roadwork to bury conduits.
24. Donna Gaudioso-Zeale – RTM (D-9) – spoke in support of Glenville intersection improvement with public/private/partnership cooperation.
25. Katie DeLuca - Director, Planning & Zoning – spoke in support of the Glenville Beautification project working in conjunction with the Capital Project to enhance the neighborhood.

26. Liz Johnson - spoke in support of sidewalks on Shore Road and Sound Beach Road for pedestrian and school children safety.
27. Dustin Downey – resident of Old Greenwich – spoke in support of sidewalks on Shore Road and Sound Beach Avenue.
28. Helen Delago – resident of Old Greenwich – spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road.
29. Arline Lomazzo – President, Pedestrian Safety Committee - spoke in support of applying the Sidewalk survey for completeness on Sound Beach Road, and the Shore Road study.
30. Maggie Bound – spoke in support of implementing the 2004 Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road study recommendations and increase DPW maintenance of these highly trafficked roads.
31. Whitney Sachs – spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road for safety.
32. Dr. Concepcion Saenz-Cambra – spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road.
33. Simon Bound - spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road.
34. Kaitlin Schnepf – spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road.
35. Janine Whitley – spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road.
36. Coline Jenkins – RTM Old Greenwich - spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road because there are 16 School Bus stops along the road.
37. Sue Olivier – Architect – spoke in support of sidewalks on Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Road that has been delayed for 17 years,
38. Molly Saleeby – RTM (D-8) Vice Chair – spoke in support of Town’s values and standards when there’s a safety issue; Capital spending on Schools; and the Public Hearing’s purpose is to tell government what is wanted.
39. Lauren Rabin – Selectwoman – spoke in support of Capital Improvement Projects scheduled for Byram/Glenville and Glenville Beautification projects.
40. Alex Popp – spoke in support a Byram Traffic Study; spoke in opposition to execution of three BOE Capital projects simultaneously, enlarged classroom space with declining enrollment.
41. Nicholas Wiltsie - spoke in support funding Byram traffic study for safety issues.
42. Katie Wiltsie – spoke in support of mitigation of Byram traffic and safety problem.

43. Ryan O'Connor – Chairman Byram Safety Team - spoke in support of funding the Byram traffic study as an entry point to Greenwich.
44. Stephen Meskers – State Representative for the 150th District – RTM Education Committee – spoke in support of Byram Traffic Study, repairing physical infrastructure of schools, remediating school playing fields, expanding Kindergarten classroom at Julian Curtis, restore funding for the YWCA.
45. Joseph Kantorski, – Byram Neighborhood Association – spoke in support of traffic safety measures for pedestrian traffic in Byram.
46. Lucy von Brachel – RTM – spoke in support of pedestrian safety in Byram, school renovation, BOE Operating Budget, restoring grant to YWCA sexual and domestic violence programming.
47. Betsy Underhill – spoke in support of Parks & Recreation repurposing a tennis court to a Pickle Ball court.
48. Peter Uhry – spoke in support of adding 3 new Pickle Ball courts at Bible Street.
49. Jodi Stuart – Wellness Specialist – spoke in support of additional Pickle Ball Courts.
50. Candace Garthwaite – spoke in support of 140 people who signed petitions for additional Pickle Ball courts.
51. Ernst Schirmer – spoke in support of additional Pickle Ball courts, racket ball opportunities, as a pro exercise enthusiast and recommends it as a quality-of-life issue.
52. Peter Sherr – spoke in opposition to higher property taxes to pay for declining academic achievement in schools; support of prioritizing Capital Budget expenditures for Central Middle School and ADA accessibility at Old Greenwich school.
53. Jennifer Bencivengo –Principal, Old Greenwich School – spoke in support of the planned renovation of Old Greenwich School, ADA improvements, proper ventilation in schools, Health and safety and Sound Beach Avenue/Shore Road sidewalks.
54. Clare Kilgallen Esq. – spoke in support of Pedestrian safety at Byram intersection, 8-30g Projects, BOE Operating Budget; in support of Owner's Rep on School building projects, proper funding of maintenance.
55. Cheryl Resnick – spoke in support of removing building schools from BOE authority and enrich contribution to materials for school instruction; in support of school and reduce priced lunches with more variety.
56. Megan Galleta – spoke in support of BOE Budget, use of ARP and ESSER 3 funding for academic enrichment.
57. Erica Jacoby – OG PTA – spoke in opposition to condition of maintenance and repair of public school buildings, blaming declining enrollment on school conditions.

58. Gail Lauridsen – spoke in opposition to wastefulness in schools, expanding BOE budget with declining student achievement, mismanagement of funds and lack of ADA compliance.
59. Bob Chaney – Parent GPS - spoke in opposition to condition of school buildings and maintenance.
60. Jennifer Behette and Brian Zeller – CMS PTA spoke in opposition to condition of school buildings, lack of modernization, and pace of repairs.
61. Trish McGuire – Principal of Julian Curtiss – spoke in opposition to ADA and HVAC conditions, security, and size of cafeteria. Spoke in support of Magnet School concept and diversity of students’ backgrounds.
62. Sam Taylor – Parent of 4 in GPS – spoke in opposition to size of facilities at Julian Curtis School; spoke in support of increase the number of Town Pickle Ball courts.
63. James Waters – RTM (D-12) BOC – spoke in opposition to condition of Julian Curtis, Old Greenwich and Central Middle School for unsound structures and security.
64. Janet McMahon – Parent of 2 GPS – spoke in opposition to illegal conditions at Old Greenwich and Julian Curtis schools, and pace of A&E and repairs.
65. Mimi Duff – PTA Council – spoke in opposition to maintenance and repair pace at Greenwich Public Schools.
66. Patty Roberts – Board Chairman, Department of Human Services – spoke in support of Youth Services and support for digital resources and education.
67. Kara Philbin – spoke in support of education spending, quality of education, ESSER 3 use, and Safety.
68. Margarita Alban – Commission Chair, Planning & Zoning – spoke in support of allocating \$1.1 million to the First Selectman’s Affordable House Trust and support Public/Private Partnership (PPP) contributions.
69. William Finger – spoke in support of ARP Affordable Housing Trust to mitigate the scale and density of proposals of housing with 8-30g units. The program has credibility issues without both PPP and Town support.
70. Tim Busler – spoke in opposition to the delay of repair to the drainage system; spoke in support of ARP allocations that invest in infrastructure.
71. Debra Mecky – Executive Director & CEO, Greenwich Historical Society – spoke in support of Capital repairs to the Historical Society campus.
72. Debbie Hodys – YWCA Board of Directors (BoD) – spoke in support of restoring ARP funding to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence program.

73. Mary Lee Kiernan – President & CEO, YWCA – spoke in support of restoring ARP grant for a program consistent with the criteria of ARP funding.
74. Felice Zwas – YWCA BoD, Greenwich Hospital BoD -- spoke in support of restoring ARP grant as a seamless extension of current programming.
75. Leslie Cenci – spoke in support of opportunity for local holistic care with restoration of YWCA ARP grant.
76. Louisa Winthrop – Domestic Abuse Professional – spoke in support of restoring ARP grant for seamless, local domestic violence care.
77. Abby Meiselman – Chair, YWCA BoD – spoke in support of restoring ARP grant to enable YWCA to launch an extension to its current services.

Chairman Remarks

Mr. Ozizmir thanked the speakers and attendees who participated in the Public Hearing, the Information Technology staff supporting the virtual meeting, and WGCH and GCTV for the live broadcast of the meeting. He noted that 77 residents had offered comments on the FY2023 Budget, or 42% more than the previous year. Comments could be sent through the Town website form until 11:59 P.M. so that BET members could have the information for BET Decision Day voting at its April 19 meeting.

Adjournment

The Board unanimously voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 10:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Nisha Arora, Clerk of the Board



Dan Ozizmir, Chair