



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 in the Town Hall Meeting Room in Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Dan Ozizmir called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

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

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Public: Greenwich Free Press; Don Conway, GCTV, Speakers listed in order of appearance. Online comments attached.

The Chairman, Dan Ozizmir, welcomed Board members, Town staff and the public to the 2023 Public Hearing on the Town's FY2023-2024 Budget. He stated that speakers will be called in the order that they signed in. There will be 3-minute limit on speaking with a 30 second warning from the timekeeper, the Town's Comptroller. He thanked the public for their interest in the meeting and noted that 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. The Public Hearing is also available on GCTV.

He noted that this is the third public hearing on the budget process. The first was held with presentations from the First Selectman and the Board of Education, the second was conducted by the BET Budget Committee and the third is being held tonight. He noted that the full BET will vote on the budget next Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Following are the speakers in the order that they appeared:

Public Hearing

1. Fred Camillo and Dylan Tobin. Dylan spoke in favor of funding for Old Greenwich School. First Selectman Camillo spoke to funding at Holly Hill, to relocate Parks and Recreation operations, which is holding up the project at Roger Sherman Park. He added that he

supported adding \$1,100,000 in incremental funding for the Old Greenwich School Building Committee.

2. Gail Lauridsen spoke in favor of funding at Old Greenwich School to fix leaky roofs, plumbing and non-ADA compliance.
3. Ernst Schirmer spoke in favor of funding \$407,000 for repairs at the Cos Cob Library.
4. Joe Solari warned against long-term debt and talked about spending money efficiently and funding the schools correctly.
5. Tracy Brown was concerned about the environmental hazards to children's health from the sewage that backs up in the lower level classrooms at Old Greenwich School and was in favor of funding for the school.
6. Jennifer Andrews wanted the funding for Old Greenwich School to be moved up into the FY 2024 budget.
7. Joe Montanaro, Republican Town Committee, Vice Chairman. spoke to funding necessary repairs to be made and called for the need of independent oversight and accountability of where our money goes. He felt that the schools are properly funded.
8. Laura Kostin, Board of Education member and CMS Building Committee spoke in favor of funding school facilities and not downsizing the CMS project.
9. Steph Cowie spoke in support of funding school infrastructure and ADA compliance at the Old Greenwich School and proper funding for the Central Middle School project.
10. Claire Kilgallen Esq., Central Middle School Building Committee member, spoke in favor of funding school infrastructure.
11. Beth MacGillivray, Republic Town Committee Chairperson spoke to the issue of the Central Middle School project fluctuations in costs due to the size of the layout and calculation errors. She is opposed to overfunding Greenwich Public Schools.
12. Michael Carter, Architect, urged the BET to move forward with the renovations at OG School.
13. Steven Meskers, State Representative, District 150 spoke to the issue of delays in funding school construction projects and overall comments on the budget.
14. Kyle Allen, Greenwich High School student in favor of public schools funding.
15. Lindsey Allen, Greenwich High School student in favor of public schools funding.
16. Jen Behette, Central Middle School PTA Co-president spoke in favor of the CMS current building specifications and the two-team teaching model.
17. Dina Urso, Central Middle School PTA Co-president spoke in favor of the CMS project and asked why the Board of Education wasn't applying for an emergency school construction grant.

18. John Fisher, Greenwich PTAC Co-President spoke in favor of public schools funding.
19. Tom Healy, Central Middle School Principal, spoke in favor of funding the Central Middle School renovation project.
20. Luka Kostoric spoke in favor of funding Old Greenwich School construction project.
21. Christina Dawson spoke in favor of funding the Old Greenwich School construction project.
22. Jen Barro spoke in favor funding public school's capital projects.
23. Debora Armstrong, Cos Cob Library Friends member, spoke in favor of the Cos Cob Library renovations and maintenance.
24. Kati Cairo spoke in favor of funding the Old Greenwich School renovation project.
25. Christina Dawson spoke for Kim Field, who is in favor of funding for Old Greenwich School.
26. Christin Dawson spoke for Luka Kostoric and Austin Berendowski in favor of Old Greenwich School funding.
27. Molly Saleeby spoke in favor of the Old Greenwich School renovation.
28. Myra Klockenbrink, Project Zero member, explained that net zero meant that the amount of energy a building uses is generated by the building, creating zero emission. Her comments were relative to school building construction projects.
29. Matt DesChamps, RTM Budget Overview Committee, spoke to the issue of delays in funding school capital projects which end up cost more money in the long run.
30. Christina Dawson spoke for Sarah Meyers for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
31. Michael Spilo, RTM member, spoke to the overbuilding of Central Middle School and state the Town had a history of overbuilding with examples such as New Lebanon and the Performing Arts Center at Greenwich High School.
32. Mita Spilo spoke against overfunding public school's capital projects.
33. Peter Berg, RTM member, spoke to the mill rate and taxation on seniors.
34. Dan Quigley, spoke to committing to rebuild Central Middle School, remediate Old Greenwich School and fix necessary repairs.
35. Candace Garthwaite spoke in favor of funding for Pickleball courts.
36. Jodi Stuart spoke in favor of funding for Pickleball courts.
37. Jennifer Bencivengo, Old Greenwich School Principal spoke in favor of fully funding OG School for \$35.9 million.

38. John Sprang spoke in favor of funding for the Dorothy Hamill Rink.
39. Rob Carter spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
40. Kristin Connell spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
41. Wynn McDaniel spoke in favor of retirees.
42. Ani Widham spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation
43. Bob Chaney, PTAC member, spoke in favor of the school budget.
44. Debora Armstrong spoke in favor of funding for repairs at the Cos Cob Library.
45. Hannah Tsatsonis spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
46. Janet McMahon spoke in favor of the Greenwich Public Schools Capital Budget.
47. Michael Goldstein spoke in favor of funding for the Central Middle School.
48. Sylvester Pecora Sr. spoke in opposition to the site for the Dorothy Hamill Ice Rink.
49. James Waters, Chairman of the Old Greenwich School Building Committee said they would be able to start construction next spring on the OG School if the BET provides construction funding this year.
50. Jackie Welch spoke in favor of the Old Greenwich School renovation.
51. Paul Pugliese, Architect spoke in favor of renovating Old Greenwich School rather than demolition.
52. Vince Brown spoke in favor of funding for the Cos Cob Library.
53. Peter Sherr spoke against overfunding for public school capital projects.
54. Ysbell Duran spoke in favor of funding for the Cos Cob Library.
55. Monica Prihoda spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
56. Veronica Chiavaroli spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
57. Lucia Jansen, RTM BOC member, spoke to adherence to the BET Budget Guidelines.
58. Hillary Haroche spoke in favor of funding two Fire Department vehicles, not one.
59. Katie Jackson spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
60. Jessica Emery spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
61. Kathryn Cooper spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.

62. Erica Jacoby spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
63. Catarina Moura spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
64. James Welsh spoke in favor of funding for the Old Greenwich School renovation.
65. Matthew Kane spoke in favor of the proper funding for the Central Middle School renovation.
66. Kerri Gruss spoke in favor of the Central Middle School renovation.
67. Lindy Lilien spoke in favor of funding for public school capital project funding.
68. Tim Busler, spoke regarding the North Street Bridge and overall drainage issues.
69. Luke Szymczak spoke to the North Street Bridge and West Brothers Brook Flooding.
70. Chad Paris spoke to the North Street Bridge project.
71. Alex Russell spoke in favor of funding the Old Greenwich School renovation.
72. Peter Quigley spoke to the issue of long-term bonding for capital projects.
73. Peter Alexander spoke to the drainage issues in town.

Chairman Remarks

Mr. Ozizmir thanked the speakers and attendees who participated in the Public Hearing and closed the meeting.

The Board unanimously voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 10:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary



Nisha Arora, Clerk of the Board



Dan Ozizmir, Chair