MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, April 15, 2013 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk
Gregory Bedrosian
Robert Brady
William R. Finger
Sean Goldrich
Randall Huffman
Marc V. Johnson
Joseph L. Pellegrino
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; David Theis, Selectman; Drew Marzullo, Selectman
Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Robert Shipman, Assistant Assessor; John Crary, Town Administrator

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

PR-7 Parks & Recreation – Release of Conditions $143,300

Release of Conditions:
$ 143,300 to Z809-59840-13213 Storm Damage Repair –
          Pier at Great Captains Island

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

PD-5 Police – Approval to Use $60,000

Approval to Use:
$ 60,000 to F213-52960 Repaint Police Boat
$ 15,000 from Federal Asset Forfeiture
$ 45,000 from 2012 DHS Port Security Grant

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.
NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

SE-7 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation $15,000
Additional Appropriation:
$ 15,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Munnick v. TOG
$ 15,000 from Risk Fund Balance

Mr. Ramer stated that the Law Committee reviewed and unanimously recommended this item, and Mr. Pellegrino stated that the Budget Committee also unanimously recommended this item.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

SE-9 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation $30,000
Additional Appropriation:
$ 30,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Skogg v. Greenwich BOE
$ 30,000 from Risk Fund Balance

Mr. Ramer stated that the Law Committee reviewed and unanimously recommended this item, and Mr. Pellegrino stated that the Budget Committee also unanimously recommended this item.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

SE-10 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation $7,500
Additional Appropriation:
$ 7,500 to P935-57350 Settlement – Messer v. TOG
$ 7,500 from Risk Fund Balance

Mr. Ramer explained that the Law Committee reviewed this item on two occasions and given the timing of the case, they did not take a formal vote on this item.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Ms. Elliott presented the Assessor’s Report, highlighting appeals and settlements. Ms. Elliott noted that the senior tax relief applications are due May 15th. A brief discussion followed regarding the trend in settlements and the process for appeals.

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 presented the Comptroller's Report, highlighting the Debt and Fund Balance Policies Working Group meetings and storm related reimbursements. Mr. Pellegrino requested a completed listing of storm related reimbursements since March 2010.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD OF March 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013

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

BET Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee Reports.

BET Liaison Reports

Revaluation Team Report

Mr. Finger gave an update of the current RFP process for Assessor/Tax Collector software, noting that the RFP evaluations from the Tax Collector’s office had not yet been submitted, and these evaluations were needed in order for the RFP process to continue moving forward.

BET Special Project Team Reports

Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee Report

Mr. Norton stated that Nathaniel Witherell had received a temporary building permit for Project Renew and he reviewed the project construction phases.

GHS MISA / Remediation Report

Ms. Tarkington reviewed the public comment opportunities associated with the remediation process, highlighting the two public hearings and presentations, and adding that the deadline for sharing comments with the BOE is April 30, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

Bi-Annual Review BET Debt and Fund Balance Policy Update

Mr. Pellegrino reported that the Debt and Fund Balance Policies Working Group met on April 5, 2013. The second meeting of this Working Group will take place on April 17, 2013, and will feature Mr. Bill Lindsay of IBIC, the Town’s financial advisor. Mr. Pellegrino summarized the discussion at the first meeting, noting that the Town’s Budget Director, Roland Gieger, reviewed the capital model with various assumptions, including 20 year financing for the Central Fire Station. Mr. Gieger also provided preliminary mill rate calculations for the next fiscal year, and he reviewed the interest costs under various financing scenarios. Mrs. Kiernan added that the interest costs presented failed to use a present value calculation, and she noted that the Working Group had also agreed to bring in other experts in order to obtain additional thoughts.
on our financing model. Mr. Finger stressed the importance of seeking this additional input from other experts in public finance. Mr. Goldrick compared the Town’s debt level with that of other AAA rated municipalities. Mr. Mason noted that many complex issues connect to this discussion, including financing of sewers and pension obligations. Mr. Johnson noted that the Working Group also discussed how the Town might lack the capacity to take on additional large capital projects.

Announcement – Two Special meetings April 2013

Mr. Mason stated that the Budget Committee will meet on Thursday, April 18th and the BET will meet on Wednesday, April 24th to discuss the BOE request for an additional appropriation for MISA, and all questions and requests must be made to the Budget Committee before then.

OLD BUSINESS

Release of Conditions – King Street Firehouse – Revised Request First Selectman

Mr. Pellegrino gave an overview of the Budget Committee’s discussion regarding the Northwest Greenwich Fire Station property, and he summarized the gap in service and the efforts made to locate an optimal site. The Budget Committee voted 4-0 to authorize the First Selectman to move forward on a land acquisition subject to price, due diligence and comprehensive planning of Town fire service by the Fire Department. Mr. Mason also shared background information and comments regarding Mr. Ramer’s involvement in the project. Mr. Brady noted the need for the Fire Department to develop a comprehensive strategic plan in parallel with the land acquisition discussions.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the First Selectman to pursue negotiations for land acquisition for Northwest Greenwich Fire Station #9, subject to price and satisfactory due diligence, and receipt by the BET of a Town-wide Fire Department comprehensive, strategic plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BET Regular Meeting, March 18, 2013

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from March 18, 2013.

BET Public Hearing Meeting, March 19, 2013

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 11-0-1 (Mr. Johnson abstained) to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of the BET from March 19, 2013.

BET FY 2013-2014 Budget Decision Meeting, March 21, 2013

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the FY 2013-2014 Budget Decision Meeting Minutes of the BET from March 21, 2013.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Kiernan shared comments regarding the upcoming CDBG process, and a proposed summary of the BET's HR Working Group report.

Mr. Norton shared comments regarding his attendance at the Silver Shield Awards Presentation on April 7, 2013, commending approximately 80 officers.

Mr. Mason shared comments regarding the RTM Budget cycle, and the importance of using Town email addresses.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Goldrick, seconded by Mr. Brady, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk of the Board

Michael S. Mason, Chairman