



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, April 24, 2017 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:34 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; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney

Selectmen: Drew Marzullo, Selectman

Mr. Mason welcomed BET members and attendees.

### **Executive Session- Discussion of Pending Litigation**

Mr. Mason called for an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to enter Executive Session at 6:35 P.M.

**The Board exited Executive Session at 6:46 P.M.**

Mr. Norton made a motion to separate Application SE-16 for voting purposes, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion.

### **ROUTINE APPLICATIONS**

SE-15	First Selectman	Settlement
\$6,000	P935 57350	Lakeman v. TOG

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of a Settlement in the amount of \$6,000.

ED-7	BOE	Approval to Use
\$13,500	F6971641 53100	Asia Society Grant

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the use of the \$13,500 Asia Society Grant.

PD-6	Police	Approval to Use
\$29,625	F21717 51100 7 57050	Distracted Driving Enforcement

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the use of the State grant of \$22,219 with the additional 25% In-Kind Match from the Greenwich Police Department for a total of \$29,625.

SE-16	First Selectman	Settlement
\$25,000	P935 57350	Luciano v. TOG

Mr. Mason commented that he would not be voting in favor of the settlement.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Board voted 9-3-0 in favor of the settlement of \$25,000 in the Luciano litigation as a Non-Routine application. (Opposed: Blankley, Mason, Oberlander).

## **ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Elliott advised the BET that the 2016 Grand List was complete noting that it showed an increase of 0.98%. Before Board of Assessment Appeals, the Grand List was \$32,678,441,384, an increase of \$359,893,277 over the 2015 Grand List. The settlements by the Board of Assessment Appeals for Real Estate appeals of \$41,493,230 and \$352,030 for Personal Property appeals result in a net taxable Grand List of \$32,636,596,124. Ms. Elliot next shared the status of pending Superior Court cases and expressed optimism about the possibility of settlements in the 16 trials scheduled for the following week.

Commenting on the 2020 Revaluation, Ms. Elliot suggested that her goal was the inspection of 3,300 parcels during each of the next three spring/summers, in preparation for the 2020 revaluation. She remarked that she would be asking the BOS at their next meeting on April 27 to announce the Department's Press Release describing the upcoming property inspections. Ms. Krumeich asked for more specifics about the content of the proposed Release, to which Ms. Elliott responded that by alerting the public that inspectors would be in the field, she hoped to minimize residents' concerns or possible complaints.

Mr. Norton congratulated Ms. Elliott on the successes of litigation and the increase in the Grand List.

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 updated the Board on recent meetings with RTM BOC members as they prepared for an upcoming RTM Budget Workshop prior to the RTM May 8<sup>th</sup> vote. He remarked that a new Risk Manager had been selected and would begin on May 8, 2017. In the interim, an evaluation of General Liability exposures at the Steamboat Pier had taken place on March 27, 2017. Mr. Mynarski reported that the evaluation was performed by the Town's Safety Consultant and the William Street playing field was also inspected on the same day. Mr. Mynarski said there would be upcoming discussion of the Steamboat Road Pier / Landing survey at the Audit Committee's Special Meeting to be scheduled on Friday.

Mr. Norton commented on the status of the Parking Services Audit concerning unreconciled cash which was being investigated by the Risk Manager, Internal Auditor, the Finance and Police Departments. Mr. Mynarski noted that the Parking Services Audit could result in requiring restitution as well as expenses incurred by Audit, Legal and Police Departments. Mr. Drake proposed that Ms. Frame, the internal auditor, be commended and thanked for her work on this matter. Ms. Oberlander asked if TOG's insurance would cover the cost of a forensic audit. Mr. Mynarski responded that the Police Department had requested that Ms. Frame continue the investigation rather than slow the process by introducing an outside forensic auditor without prior knowledge of the matter. Mr. Ramer noted that there was good value in the public relations of the investigation being done independently. Mr. Mason thanked Mr. Mynarski and the Finance Department citing the completion of the annual budget process, the selection of the new Risk Manager, the review of Outsourced Chief Investment Officer services firms for the Retirement Board and BOC preparation for the RTM vote of May 8<sup>th</sup>, as major accomplishments in a busy month.

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

### **Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report Showing Investment Portfolio Activity for January 2016**

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

### **BET Standing Committee Reports**

Audit Committee – Mr. Norton extended an invitation to BET members to attend Friday's Audit Committee meeting.

### **BET Liaison Reports**

None

### **BET Special Project Team Reports**

None

## **New Business**

Mr. Mason proposed a change in the BET meeting schedule from the July 17<sup>th</sup> date, to Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>; an additional change was proposed from December 18<sup>th</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup>. He asked BET members to check their calendars and confirm with him by email. He commented that one item on the July meeting Agenda would be the transfer of yearend close- outs and the December meeting Agenda would have a vote on the completed Audit.

Mr. Lash thanked Ms. Moriarty for the preparation of background information that the BET members would have as a resource for attending the upcoming RTM District and Committee meetings prior to the RTM May 8<sup>th</sup> vote. Ms. Weissler also thanked Ms. Moriarty for this information.

Mr. Mynarski remarked that after further meetings with RTM BOC representatives, the BOC was in the process of revising its Budget PowerPoint presentation paper to be more accurate and supportive of their numbers. He suggested that it would probably be ready for distribution at the BOC Budget Workshop.

## **Old Business**

None

## **Approval of the BET Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting of March 20, 2017.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the BET Public Hearing of March 23, 2017.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the BET Decision Meeting of March 27, 2017 as amended.

## **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Mason expressed his thanks to Board members for their participation in all the past busy weeks and the next two upcoming ones.

## **Adjournment**

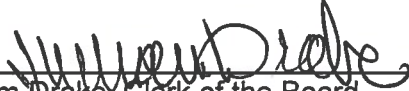
Upon a motion by Mr. Turner, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting of the BET is scheduled on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman