



MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 in a virtual Zoom webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Chair Michael S. Mason called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Karen Fassuliotis, Vice Chairman
William Drake, Clerk
Andreas Duus III
Laura Erickson
Debra Hess
Miriam Kreuzer
Elizabeth K. Krumeich
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod

Selectmen: Jill K. Oberlander, Select-person; Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman

Staff: Angela Gencarelli, Ass't. Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Department (Dept.); Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems, Finance Dept.; Craig Jones, Information Technology (IT) Dept.; Vincent Marino, Town Attorney; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

BOE/GPS: Peter Bernstein, Chairman, Board of Education (BOE); Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools (GPS); Joe Kelly, Member, BOE; Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer, GPS

OTHER: Webinar attendees ranged between 333 to 388 people during the length of the meeting; Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; GCTV; Jo Kroeker, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Leslie Yaeger, Editor, *Greenwich Free Press*

To Reconsider the FY 2021 Approved Budget

Chairman Mason asked Ms. Moriarty to propose a motion.

- **Motion:** Ms. Moriarty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to reconsider the FY2021 Budget.

Discussion

Chairman Mason asked for discussion of the proposed motion.

A point of order was raised requesting the Chairman rule the Motion Out of Order because it did not meet the criteria of Robert's Rules. The Motion to Reconsider was neither made by a voter on the prevailing side, nor requested at the end of the April 27, 2020 meeting nor within the 24-hours thereafter. At the April 27 meeting, in order to allow the members a full opportunity to speak on individual appropriations grouped into larger motions, the rules were suspended to allow reconsideration of such individual appropriations. This suspension of the Rules applied to the April 27 meeting, but does not carry over to the present special meeting.

Mr. Ramer asked to be heard on the point of order and was reminded that points of order are not debatable without permission.

Chairman Mason then ruled the Motion to Reconsider to be out of order, and stated that since there was no further business to come before the body he would entertain a motion to adjourn

- **Motion:** Prior to a motion being made to adjourn the meeting Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

In subsequent discussion, the Board was reminded of the unanimous adoption by the Board of a motion to suspend the rules of the April 27, 2020 meeting to allow any member to move to reconsider any individual appropriation made within a group motion that contained multiple separate appropriations (made as one motion), without regard to whether that member had voted on the prevailing side. It was asserted that today's motion to reconsider the FY 2021 Budget was timely because the Board suspended the rules to allow for any member to make a motion to reconsider, and today's motion to reconsider is made on the next successive day on which the same item of business is under consideration, in this case the FY21 Budget. Thus, the proponents believed that today's motion to reconsider was timely and in order and the Chair's ruling should be overturned.

Other members also urged that the Chair's ruling be overturned, especially given the public's expressed interest in certain aspects of the budget, particularly the budget for education.

Town Attorney Marino was asked for his opinion as to whether today's Motion to Reconsider was properly made. Mr. Marino indicated that it was not properly made because the motion was not made by an individual who was on the prevailing side of the vote taken on the FY21 Budget on April 27, 2020. Additionally, the suspension of the rules at the April 27, 2020 meeting did not carry over to suspend the rules for a subsequent meeting once the business of that meeting was concluded and that meeting was adjourned. He added that the filing of the BET's FY21 recommended Budget with the Town Clerk was yet another reason that the Motion to reconsider was not in proper order. The question of whether the BET could amend its budget before the deadline was discussed. However, Attorney Marino noted that a Special Meeting is limited to the published agenda and since an amendment was not on the agenda the BET could not consider any proposed amendments to the FY21 Budget. Proponents of the Motion to Reconsider asked for the opportunity to consider a compromise on the Education appropriations before a vote was taken. As the request was not in legal order the request was denied by the Chair.

A vote was then called on the appeal of the Chair's ruling that the motion to reconsider the FY21 Budget was out of order pursuant to Robert's Rules. The Board voted 6-6-0 (Opposed: Drake, Duus, Fassuliotis, Hess, Mason, Tarkington). Motion failed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Mason called for a roll call vote to adjourn the Meeting. The Board voted 7-6-0 (Opposed: Erickson, Kreuzer, Krumeich, Moriarty, Ramer, Weisbrod). Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael Mason, Chairman