MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, May 19, 2014 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:19 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

- Michael S. Mason, Chairman
- Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
- William Drake, Clerk
- John Blankley
- William R. Finger
- Sean Goldrick
- Randall Huffman
- Marc V. Johnson
- Mary Lee Kiernan
- Jeffrey S. Ramer
- Leslie L. Tarkington
- Nancy Weissler

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Robert Shipman, Assistant Assessor; Caroline Baisley, Director Health Department; Dan Warzoha, Emergency Preparedness Director; Barbara O'Neill, BOE Chairman

Mr. Mason opened the meeting by expressing thanks to BET members for accommodating the special request of a fellow BET member to delay the start of the meeting by 45 (forty five) minutes.

He then called for a motion to change the category of Routine Applications to Non-Routine Application to allow for discussion.

On a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the change.

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HD-7</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Approval of Use</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>F 40340 &amp; various codes</td>
<td>Enhance Greenwich Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)</td>
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Mr. Johnson reported that the Budget Committee approved the use of the grant funds to contribute to the salary of MRC part time staff on a vote of 4-0-0.
Ms. Kiernan and Mr. Ramer expressed concern regarding potential liability to TOG resulting from activities of the corps' volunteers and medical professionals and proposed that the funds be subject to release upon satisfactory review by TOG's Risk Management and Law Departments of MRC's supervision of its personnel to avoid risk and ensure compliance with State and Federal treatment guidelines.

Ms. Baisley and Mr. Warzoha emphasized that the grant funds need to be expended by June 30, 2014, and that it might be necessary to return the grant if approval were delayed until the BET's next meeting on June 16th.

Since the Budget Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for June 3, the Board considered delegating the authority to release the funds to the Budget Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the BET voted 11-1-0 (Opposed: Norton) to approve the Application, Subject to Release by the Budget Committee at its June 3, 2014 meeting upon the review noted above.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HD-8</th>
<th>Health Approval of Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>F 40339 51300 &amp; 57050</td>
</tr>
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Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 11-1-0 (Opposed: Norton) to approve the Application, Subject to Release by the Budget Committee at its June 3, 2014 meeting upon the review noted above.

<table>
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<th>PD-6</th>
<th>Police Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Acceptance of support from Shelter-Our-Strays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mr. Johnson reported that the Budget Committee voted 4-0-0 to accept the support for the construction of the dog run to be built according to the CT Dept. of Agriculture’s specifications supervised by DPW.

Mr. Ramer expressed concern that if a cost overrun occurred, SOS' gift would cover only "up to" $25,000 and thereafter TOG would become responsible for an outstanding balance. He questioned the Town's process for receiving gifts to ensure that it is properly protected from capital improvement overruns. Mr. Mason stressed the uniqueness of this project because SOS would receive and pay bills, noting that gifts needed to be approved by the RTM.

Upon a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Application.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Elliott presented the Assessor’s Report noting that the application period for senior tax credit and tax deferrals programs had ended. She commented that 15 property tax assessment appeals were remaining. She announced that the new commercial property appraiser had now
joined her office. Ms. Tarkington added that the Ms. Elliott and the Department are now preparing the RFP for the Revaluation project.

Mr. Mason commented that he appreciated Ms. Elliott’s attendance and contribution to discussions at the recent Land Use Roundtable.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Assessor’s report.

**COMPTROLLER’S REPORT**

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller’s Report noting that additional funds had been received from FEMA on the Island Beach damage claim. He indicated that a total of $5.4 million insurance reimbursement had now been returned to TOG’s General Fund.

He pointed out that the Human Resource Capital Management System project was proceeding on schedule and its costs were currently under budget.

He reported that Project Renew’s Certificate of Occupancy was expected to be received on July 25, 2014 at which point application could be made to the State for the Historic Tax Credit reimbursement.

Mr. Mason congratulated Mr. Mynarski and the Finance Department on their contribution to the successful 2014-2015 Budget process.

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTH OF April, 2014**

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

**BET Standing Committee Reports**

Human Resource Committee Report was presented by Ms. Weissler who noted that the Committee voted 4-0-0 to revise the M&C compensation plan to incorporate an assessment of the achievement of goals into the quantitative rating of job performance for 2014-2015. The HR Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend an increase in the M&C Compensation Pool of 2.5% for 2014-2015. She noted that the HR Committee also voted 4-0-0 to accept HR’s recommendation that this 2.5% be broken down into a base increase of 1.5% and an increment of 0.5% for excellent performance and 1.0% for exceptional performance.

Mr. Mason suggested that rather than discuss the M&C Compensation changes again under New Business, he would entertain a motion to approve the M&C changes proposed.
Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to change the order of the Agenda.

In additional discussion, Mr. Ramer asked if past experience indicated that the full Compensation Pool would be expended or exceeded. Ms. Weissler responded that Ms. Pepe advised the HR Committee that only 75% of M&C employees received the maximum increase in the prior year. Ms. Kiernan noted that unspent Pool funds could be allocated for increases for mid-year hires.

The Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the HR Committee recommendation of an increase of 2.5% in the M&C Compensation Pool for 2014-2015.

**BET Liaison Reports**

There were no Liaison Reports.

**BET Special Project Team Reports**

The Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee update was provided by Mr. Norton who noted that $500,000 STEP grant had been received from the State. Mr. Mason asked Mr. Norton to make a special report on the use of this fund at the next BET meeting.

MISA/GHS Soils progress was updated by Ms. Tarkington, who commented that approval from the Federal and State regulatory agencies had been received for the GHS Soils project, allowing remediation of the southern portion of the site for arsenic, benzo-a-pyrene, and pesticides. Preparation of the site for the remediation work could begin as soon as early June.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of RTM Resolution Changes**

Mr. Ramer presented a synopsis of the RTM's changes to the Resolutions noting in several instances they were merely grammatical.

On a Motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 To accept the RTM's changes.

**Mill Rates for 2014-2015**

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Drake, and seconded by Mr. Johnson:

Resolution for General Fund Tax on Assessment List of October 1, 2013 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

RESOLVED, that a tax at the rate of 10.969 Mills on the dollar be and the same is hereby levied and laid upon the Assessment List of the Town of Greenwich last completed, as the Tax for said Town's General Fund for the succeeding Fiscal Year to wit: for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015:
RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk of the Board of Estimate and Taxation shall forthwith file a certificate of the levying and laying of such tax with the Town Clerk, who shall record such certificate in the Town Meeting record book, and obtain a receipt from the Town Clerk that this has been done.

Mr. Goldrick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Huffman, to amend the resolution in order to set the Mill Rate such that the increase from the current year would be 1.15%. He noted that at June 30, 2014 the General Fund balance would be $44 million. Referring to the policy target for fund balance ranging from 5% to 10% of General Fund expenditures, he noted that $44 million was nearly $25 million in excess of the minimum, since 5% of General Fund expenditures are $20 million. He noted that this creates a structural surplus and hardship to taxpayers. He commented that TOG’s debt per capita was 1/3 that of other triple AAA rated towns in Connecticut and 1/5 of AAA-rated town nationally. He indicated that in his opinion, holding cash balances which earned very low rates of interest while construction costs are subject to inflation resulted in effective depreciation of cash balances, and he indicated that money could be borrowed in the future without detriment to TOG’s credit rating.

Several members of the BET expressed their opinions on the issue.

Mr. Mason called for a vote on this amendment and the Board voted 3-9 (Opposed: Weissler, Kiernan, Norton, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Finger, Ramer, Tarkington). Motion failed.

Mr. Finger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to amend the Mill Rate from 10.969 to 10.937 which would both plan responsibly for TOG’s long term needs and moderate the growth of the fund balance.

Mr. Mason called for a vote on this amendment and the Board voted 5-7 (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Johnson, Tarkington, Goldrick). Motion failed.

Mr. Mason commented that reducing the Mill Rate increase to 1.15% for this year, in this way was unproductive. The Town taxpayers benefit from predictable, modestly growing stable tax rates. He noted that a 2.75% increase in the General Fund Mill rate had been a stated goal for the now-completed lengthy budgeting process, and he recommended not acting arbitrarily or in a volatile manner to make any last-minute changes, but rather discussing the potential of reducing the Mill Rate increase during next year’s budgeting process. He also noted several budgetary challenges for next year, for which it would be prudent to plan ahead by maintaining an adequate fund balance. These challenges include increases in healthcare expenses, Nathaniel Witherell subsidy, the capital projects tax levy, and the upcoming consideration of a replacement school at New Lebanon. For all these reasons, he recommended the General Fund tax at 10.969 Mills, which is a moderate, careful, conservative policy.

On a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 9-3 to approve the General Fund tax of 10.969 Mills (first resolution above). (Opposed: Goldrick, Huffman, Blankley)

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Drake, and seconded by Mr. Johnson:
Resolution for Sewer Maintenance Fund Tax on Assessment List of October 1, 2013 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

RESOLVED, that a tax at the rate of 0.611 Mills on the dollar be and the same is hereby levied and laid upon the Assessment List of the Town of Greenwich last completed, as the Tax for said Town’s Sewer Maintenance Fund for the succeeding Fiscal Year to wit: for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk of the Board of Estimate and Taxation shall forthwith file a certificate of the levying and laying of such tax with the Town Clerk, who shall record such certificate in the Town Meeting record book, and obtain a receipt from the Town Clerk that this has been done.

On a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Sewer Maintenance Fund tax of 0.611 Mills (second resolution above).

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Drake, and seconded by Mr. Johnson:

Resolution for Sewer Improvement Fund Tax on Assessment List of October 1, 2013 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

RESOLVED, that a tax at the rate of 0.044 Mills on the dollar be and the same is hereby levied and laid upon the Assessment List of the Town of Greenwich last completed, as the Tax for said Town’s Sewer Improvement Fund for the succeeding Fiscal Year to wit: for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk of the Board of Estimate and Taxation shall forthwith file a certificate of the levying and laying of such tax with the Town Clerk, who shall record such certificate in the Town Meeting record book, and obtain a receipt from the Town Clerk that this has been done.

On a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Sewer Improvement Fund tax of 0.044 Mills (third resolution above).

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ramer and Mr. Goldrick proposed that the next Board meeting agenda include an update on the Policy and Procedure for posting TOG Audits on its website. Mr. Mason asked Mr. Norton to provide an update at the next BET meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BET Regular Meeting, April 21, 2014

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 April 21, 2014.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Mason began his remarks by congratulating Mr. Finger on the arrival of his new grandchild. He expressed his gratitude to BET members for reaching out to key RTM members and briefing them on the Budget which he believed facilitated its favorable support in the RTM voting.

He suggested that he would like to see a YE Closeout from TOG heads of departments to learn the status of their departments' capital projects. He suggested that a new checklist be developed for capital projects by Mr. Norton and the Audit Committee to be attached to all big ticket items in the future to facilitate understanding what had been accomplished and what still needed to be completed.

He asked Mr. Ramer and Mr. Drake to become liaisons to the New Lebanon feasibility committee. He asked Mr. Blankley to become the BET liaison to the new IT Director.

Mr. Mason reminded BET members that the next Meeting would be on June 16th, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Blankley, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

William Drake, Clerk of the Board

Michael S. Mason, Chairman