



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, June 13, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 5:37 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag. Immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Mason asked for a moment of silence to honor the victims of the Orlando shooting tragedy.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
William Drake, Clerk
John Blankley
Mary Lee A. Kiernan
Elizabeth K. Krumeich
James A. Lash
Leslie Moriarty
Jill K. Oberlander
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
Nancy Weissler

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Robert Shipman, Assistant Assessor; Amy Seibert, Commissioner of Public Works, Ben Branyan, Town Administrator; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development

Selectman: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; John Toner, Selectman

Other: Steven Walko, Chairman, New Lebanon School Building Committee; Rep. Mike Bocchino, CGA (R-150); Suzanne Lio, Associate Director of Development, Bruce Museum, Richard Kriskey, Chairman, Board of Assessment Appeals; Aiden Kriskey, Boy Scout, Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*

Mr. Mason opened the meeting by welcoming Board members and attendees, expressing a special welcome to Mr. Kriskey's grandson, Aiden, who was observing the meeting as a Boy Scout assignment. Mr. Mason then asked Mr. Drake to present the Routine Applications for Budget Adjustments.

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

| FD-2 | Fire | Transfer |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| \$74,750 | A201 52150 & 52210 | Year-end transfer |

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application to transfer funds between accounts.

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| FD-3 | Fire | Capital Carry Forward |
| \$1,200,000 | B206 59120 161100 | Aerial Apparatus |

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

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| PW-4 | DPW | Release of Conditions |
| \$20,000 | Z312 59600 15130 | Frontage Road Intersection Improvement |

Ms. Oberlander asked for a clarification of the delay on the release of funds request. Ms. Seibert explained the State's new master agreement was using standard language because the funding was part of a pass-through Fairfield County grant to multiple municipalities, all members of WestCOG. Mr. Mason indicated that the Town Law Department had completed their review of the document and suggested model language for future substitution in similar instances.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 12-0-0 to release the condition and carry forward the funds.

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| PW-5 | DPW | Capital Carry Forward |
| \$2,625,000 | Z312 59620 16139 | Bailiwick Road Bridge Rehab |

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

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| PR-3 | Parks & Recreation | Capital Carry Forward |
| \$35,000 | Z822 59140 15185 | Pinetum Gate |

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

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| PR-4 | Parks & Recreation | Capital Carry Forward |
| \$ 25,000 | Z832 59260 14193 | Replace Steel Work Boat |

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

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| PR-5 | Parks & Recreation | Capital Carry Forward |
| \$ 20,000 | B832 59260 15195 | Work Boat Outboard Motor |

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

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| PR-6 | Parks & Recreation | Capital Carry Forward |
| \$15,000 | Z834 59260 16222 | Steel Work Boat |

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board

voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

Mr. Lash presented the Non-Routine Applications.

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| <u>SE-8</u> | <u>First Selectman</u> | <u>Approval to Use</u> |
| \$750,000 | F801 57210 | DECD Grant – Bruce Museum |

He commented on the multiple times that the application had been brought to the Budget Committee, Law Committee and the Town Law Department. Ms. Tarkington noted that the Law Committee had recommended changes which had been incorporated into the grant Assistance and Pass-Through Agreements and the Management Agreement including insurance requirements and reporting provisions and now found the documents in order.

Ms. Moriarty made a Motion to Amend, seconded by Mr. Ramer. Motion: *The Grant was free to be released and spent only upon the RTM approval of the Management Agreement;*

The Board discussed the possible impact of the amended language due to the fast approaching close of the fiscal year. Ms. Tarkington commented that the current Management Agreement period would run through to the end of the calendar year which insured the Grant's security.

The Board voted 6-6 on the Motion to Amend; motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Drake, Norton, Mason, Lash, Tarkington)

Mr. Mason called for a vote on the original motion by Mr. Lash and seconded by Ms. Tarkington to approve the use of the DECD Grant and appropriate the funds. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Application.

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| <u>ED-13</u> | <u>BOE</u> | <u>Release of Conditions</u> |
| \$1,850,000 | B680 59560 16166 | New Lebanon School Design |

Mr. Walko informed the Board that the project had received MI status and Preliminary Site Plan approval from P&Z and design approval from ARC. He reminded the Board of the Building Committee's priorities for the location of the modular classrooms, commented that the State agency had approved modification for "slab on grade" modular foundations at the Western Middle School site and further, that a justification to the State for reimbursement of the modulars was being prepared. He spoke about the Building Committee's decision for Phase 1 & 2 environmental testing at Western Middle School and the options that would be considered thereafter.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 12-0-0 to release the condition.

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| <u>CD-2</u> | <u>Community Dev.</u> | <u>Release of Conditions</u> |
| \$103,834 | Q197 59900 | CDBG PY2016 Parsonage Cottage Boiler & Hot Water System Replacement Project |

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

Meeting Recessed at 6:17 P.M. to attend a ceremony to honor the victims of the Orlando, Florida tragedy.

Meeting Resumed at 6:38 P.M.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Ms. Elliot presented the Assessor's Report updating the Board on the tactics in place to manage tax bill issues resulting from the State's Department of Motor Vehicles system upgrade. She explained that a 30-day window to correct tax payers' bills would be available. Ms. Kiernan asked about the volume of Senior Tax relief applications to which Ms. Elliot responded that applications were down from approximately 700 in the previous year to 595. Ms. Kiernan asked if changing the qualifying criteria for the Tax Relief was being considered. Ms. Elliot remarked that taxes were based on the assessed property value and applicant's income. Ms. Elliot commented that there were 35 new legal actions resulting from the October 2015 Assessment and that she expected there would be additional ones before the deadline of the first week of July.

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 called the Board's attention to two items of his report: the RFP decision process resulting in two finalists competing to be TOG's healthcare services vendor beginning in FY17; the savings that resulted from the refinancing of four Bond issues which would be divided between the Nathaniel Witherell and Sewer debts.

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 FEBRUARY 2016

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

Standing Committee Reports

None

BET Liaison Reports

Mr. Mason noted that the CD Block Grant release of funds for the Parsonage Cottage meant that the item no longer needed to appear under the Liaison Report header. Additionally, the TNW Strategic Planning Committee should be substituted for TNW Building Committee under the Liaison Report Header.

Special Project Team Reports

The New Lebanon School Building Committee report was covered by Mr. Walko under the ED-13 Application for Release of Conditions for School Design of \$1,850,000.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Review and Approval of Bond Resolution for 2016 - 2017**

The amounts in the earlier-approved Bond Resolution were changed by RTM action, which necessitates a revised Resolution. Ms. Tarkington moved a revised Bond Resolution with the modified amount, which was seconded by Mr. Norton.

The Board discussed this matter. Ms. Kiernan proposed an amendment to the resolution that substituted the word "twentieth" for the word "fifth" in order to provide the Town with the flexibility to bond at any maturity up to and including 20 years. Ms. Kiernan noted the advantages of funding large capital assets like buildings for a period closer to the useful life of the asset, as discussed at the Budget Decision Meeting and at previous meetings. Ms. Kiernan also referenced the RTM Finance Committee's study comparing the current five year bonding program versus longer-term bonding, as well as the sense of the meeting resolution on this topic planned by the RTM in the fall.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Norton noted that 64-65% of voters chose the current leadership and their position on the advisability of the current, shorter bonding term. Mr. Mason commented that the RTM Budget Overview Committee had approved the BET debt policy 9-0 in its recent 2016-2017 Budget vote.

Upon a motion to amend the Bond Resolution by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 6-6; motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Drake, Norton, Mason, Lash, Tarkington)

Mr. Mason called for a vote on the original Bond Resolution motion. Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Bond Resolution.

- **OPEB Trust Board Re-nominations**

- Chairman – Robert Stricker
- Member Re-appointment – Robert Stricker

Mr. Mason proposed postponing a vote on both items related to Mr. Stricker until July.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to postpone voting on the two items.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Approval of the BET Meeting Minutes

Approval of the BET Meeting Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting of May 16, 2016.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Mason expressed his thanks to members of the BET for agreeing to move its July meeting forward to July 6, 2016. The Meeting would be held after the HR and Budget Committee meetings on that same date.

ADJOURNMENT

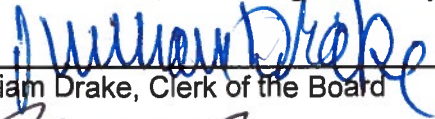
Upon a motion by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 7:05 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting of the BET is scheduled on Monday, July 6, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room following the conclusion of the Budget Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman