



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, June 15, 2020, held as a Virtual Webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Michael Mason, BET Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

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

Staff: Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department (Dept.); Craig Jones, Information Technology (IT) Dept.; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

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

RTM: Irene Dietrich, (D-8), Health & Human Services Cmte.; Lucy von Brachel, (D-4)

BOE/GPS: Clare Kilgallen, Co-President, New Lebanon PTA; Alexandra Stevens, Media Specialist, GHS

Public: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; GCTV; Patti Jomo, Education Consultant; Sara Selbert Savov; Laurence Simon, Chairman, Board of Directors, The Nathaniel Witherell

The Chairman welcomed BET Members, Town of Greenwich staff and the public. He asked the BET Clerk, Mr. Drake to present a motion for Request for Budget Adjustments.

REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

Motion was made by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to move Budget Adjustment request HS-1 from Routine Applications to Non-Routine. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
GM-2	GEMS A440 57225	\$2,350,000	Release of Conditions TOG Contribution to GEMS
TA-3	TAG A440 57221 & 57231	\$139,500	Release Conditions TOG Contribution TAG & Safe Rides

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Routine Applications. Motion carried.

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

HS-1	Human Services A502 55030	\$35,000	Transfer Client Transportation
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Ms. Tarkington noted that the Request to transfer HS-1 for \$35,000 had not been presented to the Budget Committee. Mr. Gieger commented that the Transfer was a payment to TAG for delivering food to its clients under the FEED GREENWICH program. The cost would be included in the Town's expenses being referred for FEMA reimbursement. A member of the Committee remarked Grants were awarded by both Community Development Block Grant Funds and from the United Way for emergency food delivery.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Board voted 12-0-0 to Transfer \$35,000 requested by the Human Services Department to pay for food delivery transportation to its clients. Motion carried.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
NW-4	Nathaniel Witherell(TNW) H45020 54010, H450070 57900	\$130,000	Transfer General Maintenance & Bond Redemption

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Transfer request for \$70,000 for additional Maintenance during the COVID-19 pandemic and \$50,000 scheduled for annual Bond redemption were combined in the request for \$130,000. The Budget Committee had voted 4-0-0 to recommend the application to the BET.

Board of Directors Chairman, Laurence Simon provided an update on TNW's experience during the pandemic emergency. The State guideline postponed new patient admissions impacting

revenue; staff were regularly tested for the COVID-19 virus to minimize risk to residents; expenses through May were \$1 million below budget and revenue was \$2 million below plan due to State postponement of new admissions, so Town contribution may be \$1 million higher than budgeted including the additional Medicare funding received. A BET Member asked if \$3-\$4 million might be needed to cover the deficit and requested a written report.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington on behalf of the Budget Committee, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

PL-2	Perrot Library	\$5,000	Transfer
	A710 52220		Electrical Expense

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to transfer \$5,000 payment to complete under-estimated cost of work on an electrical upgrading project. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

CAPITAL CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tarkington to Continue in Force the four Parks & Recreation Requests (PR-3 \$50,000, PR-4 \$850,000, PR-5 \$2,000,000 and PR-6 \$25,000) into the new Fiscal Year.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion seconded by Mr. Ramer to separate Requests PR-3 and PR-5, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Mason asked Ms. Tarkington for the Budget Committee reports.

PR-3	Parks & Recreation (P&R)	\$50,000	Continue in Force
	B822 59830 20189		Park Restoration

Ms. Tarkington reported that 5 qualified architects had responded to an RFP to develop a preliminary vision plan with options for Roger Sherman Baldwin Park to allow for a better estimate of costs for the renovation project. Vendor selection was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Budget Committee’s vote was 2-2.

Mr. Ramer commented that he opposed PR-3 earlier in the Budget Committee. He commented further that the capital appropriation had been cut for this project in the FY21 Budget and that most of the Capital projects for FY21 have been postponed. As a consequence, there will be a long list of eligible capital projects in FY22, of which this project will likely not be high priority. As such, it seemed imprudent to do designs several years before the execution of the project. Mr. Siciliano pointed out that although the RFP response was received by early March, the COVID-19 interruption delayed next steps. The \$50,000 appropriation would lapse if it is not carried forward. If PR-3 Continues in Force, the preliminary Vision could be developed, and Community and major event users will have input at that point.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to Continue in Force PR-3 for \$50,000 for Park Restoration planning, the Board voted 9-3-0 (Opposed: Krumeich, Ramer, Weisbrod). Motion carried.

PR-5	P&R	\$2,000,000	Continue in Force
	B83 F83419 20199\$		Greenwich Harbor Dredging

Mr. Siciliano asked that the project continue in force so that the funds would be available as soon as the Army Corps of Engineers turned their attention to this project. Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee voted 4-0 to recommend the project.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake to Continue in Force PR-5 for \$2,000,000 for Greenwich Harbor Dredging. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the request and asked that Mr. Siciliano update the BET Liaison after his meeting with the State Dredging Coordinators. Motion carried.

PR-4	P&R	\$850,000	Continue in Force
	B833 59830 20198		Repair Greenwich Pt. Causeway

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee agreed that this was a safety hazard and voted 4-0 to recommend the repairs begin as soon as possible.

PR-6	P&R	\$25,000	Continue in Force
	Z83 5971099 19185		Seawall Repair

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Seawall Repair was delayed to COVID-19 issues and the Budget Committee recommended the money continue in force.

The Board approved unanimously Carry Forward Requests PR-4 for \$850,000 to repair Greenwich Causeway and PR-5 for \$25,000 for Seawall repairs. Motions carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The Town Assessor, Ms. Elliott, highlighted items from her written monthly report: Tax bills were being readied for mailing before July 1; six new Tax Appeals have been filed, however the deadline has been extended so more might be filed; 513 applications have been received for the State Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Programs but the application deadline has been extended to August 5, so additional applications might be received;

The BET Assessor's Office liaisons support Ms. Elliott's request to seek an extension of the ReVal deadline to October 2021 from the Office of Policy & Management (OPM), citing the difficulty of completing the ReVal 2020 physical residential inspections and commercial inspections due to Pandemic closures, the unpredictable impact of changes to residential property values in the current unusual economic conditions, and the fact that home sales of July 2020 through Spring 2021 would more representative. Ms. Elliott remarked that the First Selectman was in favor of the ReVal postponement until October 2021 and would make the request.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fassuliotis, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Assessor's recommendation that the First Selectman be asked to submit a letter to OPM requesting an extension of Greenwich's ReVal submission to October 2021 prepared by the Town

Attorney. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Assessor's Report. Motion carried.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Comptroller, Mr. Mynarski, drew the Board's attention to topics in his Report for possible discussion: Covid-19 current calculated expenses, including the \$100,000 contributed to the United Way's Emergency Fund, total \$419,532. The Health Department and Nathaniel Witherell have submitted additional reimbursement requests for their activities. Beyond the 75% reimbursement of qualified expenses anticipated from FEMA, an additional 25% reimbursement is anticipated from the COVID Relief Fund. Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements of \$980,036 and \$183,000, respectively, have been received by Nathaniel Witherell. Mr. Mynarski noted that claims will also be made for Parks & Recreation lost revenue and 50% of Unemployment costs will be reimbursed. Ms. Zanesky, the Town's Risk Manager will be involved in the FEMA submissions as well as Town insurance policy claims. The Board agreed that the Budget and Audit Committees should follow reimbursements and receive updates.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstain: Krumeich) to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

BET Standing Committee Reports

None

BET Liaison Reports

None

BET Special Project Team Reports

- **Fire Study** - Mr. Ramer commented that the Fire Study Special Project Team had received a preliminary draft and that there would be a meeting with the consultant later in the week. He mentioned that he was impressed by the report's detail, the expertise of findings, and found the observations illuminating. Ms. Fassuliotis commented that the draft was preliminary, and formatting and conclusions still subject to change. Mr. Mason and Mr. Weisbrod are also on the Fire Study Project Team. Mr. Mason suggested that once the Office of the First Selectman, Town Administrator and Liaisons were satisfied, a Public Hearing could be scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Fassuliotis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mason, to add an Item

on extending the use of remote meetings for the BET to the Agenda under **OLD BUSINESS**. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Mason commented that since the Town Hall conference rooms are expected to be closed through September, BET meetings may continue to be scheduled as virtual meetings.

Mr. Mason made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weisbrod, to allow virtual BET meetings until the end of September. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Weisbrod made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to allow virtual BET meetings through December 2020. The Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstain: Ms. Erickson). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- OPEB Trust Board nominations

Mr. Duus, on behalf of Investment Advisory Committee (IAC), reported that the Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the reappointment of two members of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Board (OPEB): Mr. William Ferdinand to be reappointed as a Trustee for a three-year term until 2023 and Mr. Robert Stricker to be reappointed as Chairman of the OPEB Board until 2021.

The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the recommendation of the IAC to reappoint Mr. Ferdinand as a member of the OPEB Trust Board for a three-year term until 2023 and Mr. Stricker for a one-year term as the OPEB Chairman until 2021. Motion carried.

Mr. Weisbrod reminded the Chairman that he had asked to make a motion to continue the BET meetings as virtual until year-end. This would allow for the flexibility of in-person meetings, virtual meetings or individual BET members to attend virtually if necessary.

Mr. Weisbrod made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, to continue virtual BET meetings until December 31, 2020. The Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstain: Erickson). Motion carried.

Chair's Report

Mr. Mason thanked all who participate in supporting the Board meeting He commented that in many ways COVID-19 had made the Town operations very different from normal over the past 90-days.

Approval of BET Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the following Minutes of the BET Meetings:

BET Regular Meeting Webinar Minutes April 20, 2020
BET Public Hearing Webinar Minutes April 21, 2020
BET Budget Workshop Webinar Minutes April 23, 2020

BET Budget Decision Day Webinar Minutes April 27, 2020
BET Special Meeting Webinar Minutes May 5, 2020
BET Regular Meeting Webinar Minutes May 18, 2020
Motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Tuesday, July 20, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,*



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael Mason, BET Chairman