



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, June 18, 2012 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk
Gregory Bedrosian
Robert Brady
William R. Finger
Sean Goldrick
Randall Huffman
Marc V. Johnson
Joseph L. Pellegrino
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Robert Shipman, Interim Assessor; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

RF-4 Retirement – Investment Agreement – Apollo European Principal Finance Fund II, L.P.

Mr. Bedrosian reviewed the Retirement Board's investment strategy and selection process. He explained that the Retirement Board withdrew its intention to invest in this Fund, so the application will not be considered by the BET at this meeting.

FD-7 Fire Department (2012-2013) – Release of Condition \$700,000

Release of Condition:

\$ 700,000 to A205-51100 Overtime

Mr. Pellegrino reviewed the background of this application, which began with a conversation during the budget process aimed at increasing fire coverage in the northwest sector of town. The interim strategy developed was to fully staff the Glenville Station with professional firefighters in order to decrease response time to this sector. On Chief Siecienski's

recommendation, the Budget Committee decided 4-0-0 that the use of floaters was the most efficient and cost effective way to address staffing the Glenville Station. Mr. Pellegrino stated that this arrangement is a one year experiment, and the Fire Department will provide quarterly progress reports.

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

ED-5 Board of Education – Release of Conditions \$237,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 237,000 to B680—59560-12149 MISA

Mr. Pellegrino explained that this application adds to the \$300,000 previously approved without conditions to renovate the TechEd area at Greenwich High School that is adjacent to the MISA site. Three bids were obtained by the MISA Building Committee, with the lowest coming in at \$537,000. The bids are being further reviewed for savings. The timeline is to begin this renovation on July 1, 2012 and complete the project in six weeks. The Budget Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve this application.

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

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

SE-9 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation \$45,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 45,000 to P935-57350 Settlement Crosdale v. TOG
\$ 45,000 from Risk Fund Balance

HD-8 Health (Shellfish) – Approval to Use \$48,000

Approval to Use:

\$ 18,500 to F187-51490 Prof. Services – NOC
\$ 29,500 to F187-53250 Med, Surgical, Lab Supplies
\$ 48,000 from Reserve Restricted Account

SS-1 Social Services – Transfer \$45,000

Transfer:

\$ 35,000 to A501-51490 Prof. Services – NOC
\$ 8,000 to A502-55020 Emergency Aid
\$ 2,000 to A502-53010 Office Supplies
\$ 45,000 from A502-51300 Temporary Salaries

PW-10 Public Works – Release of Conditions \$500,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 500,000 to Z302-59660-12114 Cos Cob Power Plant Site Remediation

CAPITAL CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS

NW-3 Nathaniel Witherell – Capital Carry Forward \$393,317

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 125,000 to A450-76-59560-12186 Sprinkler System
\$ 268,317 to A450-76-59560-12185 General Facility Maintenance

Ms. Tarkington noted that \$118,000 of the \$125,000 for the Sprinkler System in this application is being retained in fixed charges subject to the existing conditions and not within Nathaniel Witherell's capital budget.

PW-11 Public Works – Capital Carry Forward \$300,000

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 300,000 to K361-59650-11177 Grass Island Grit Screw

PW-12 Public Works – Capital Carry Forward \$60,000

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 60,000 to K361-59650-12180 Collection Easement Machine

PW-13 Public Works – Capital Carry Forward \$500,000

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 500,000 to Z302-59660-12114 Storm Water Master Planning

PW-14 Public Works – Capital Carry Forward \$150,000

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 150,000 to Z302-59660-12115 Storm Water Regulation Comp

PW-15 Public Works – Capital Carry Forward \$300,000

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 300,000 to Z312-59660-12125 Field Point Road over Horseneck

PW-16 Public Works – Capital Carry Forward \$600,000

Capital Carry Forward:

\$ 600,000 to Z345-59830-12135 Grass Island Restroom

Mr. Mason summarized the capital carry forward process and noted that \$2,481,000 of funding in projects will lapse at the end of the fiscal year and will be added to the capital nonrecurring account.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the routine applications.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Ms. Tarkington noted that the successful MUNIS upgrade mentioned at the end of the Assessor's Report is a very positive development. Ms. Tarkington also stated that the newly appointed Tax Assessor, Lauren Elliott, will begin on Monday, June 25th, and there will be a Meet & Greet on Tuesday, June 26th, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M., in the Cone Room. Mr. Shipman and the Department Staff were recognized for their efforts during the interim.

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

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller's Report to the Board, highlighting the tax billing process and pre-payment collections, as well as the surplus in the Workers' Compensation claims account. Mr. Norton shared comments regarding the newly reinstated Vehicle Accident Review process.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD OF May 1, 2012 – May 30, 2012

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

BET STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Committee Report

Mr. Johnson reviewed the action taken at the June meeting of the Human Resources Committee regarding the Management and Confidential Employees' salary increases for FY 2012-2013. He explained the factors considered by the HR Committee, including the M/C data study, historical and contextual comparisons, and the state of the economy. He also recognized the hard work of this group of employees, as well as the anomalies created by the current Hay salary adjustment system. The Human Resources Committee voted 3-0-1 to approve a 2.25% increase for FY 2012-2013; Ms. Tarkington abstained because 2.5% was approved in the budget.

A discussion followed regarding the current compensation system and next steps. Mr. Mason noted several additional anomalies in the current system, as well as the timing issue with the passage of the budget coming before evaluations and associated salary adjustments. Mr. Mason asked Mr. Johnson to work on recommendations to improve this process.

Audit Committee Report

Mr. Norton stated that there will be a special meeting of the Audit Committee on June 20, 2012 with members of the Library's Board of Trustees and senior staff.

BET LIAISON REPORTS

CD Block Grant Report

Ms. Kiernan reported that she and Mr. Johnson participated in the CDBG diligence and selection process, and the CDBG Committee finalized its recommendations last week. After the First Selectman's public hearing and decisions, a more complete CDBG report will be provided.

Revaluation Team Report

Ms. Tarkington reported that the retired Tax Assessor had returned on a consulting basis to work on appeals, of which twenty-two had been added appealing BAA 2012 decisions.

BET SPECIAL PROJECT TEAM REPORTS

GHS MISA / Remediation Report

Ms. Tarkington noted the environmental testing reports and data available on the Board of Education web site, and that both the Town of Greenwich and Department of Public Works home pages link to the same BOE page. She explained that the data on the GHS/Remediation written report provided with the BET meeting materials refers to remediation costs only.

Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee Report

Mr. Norton explained that the date in the third paragraph of the written Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee Report should be Friday, July 6, instead of July 9. He noted that on July 10, the Building Committee will review bid submissions and will make a recommendation on acceptance of a bid to the Budget Committee later that evening. Mr. Pellegrino encouraged all members of the Budget Committee to attend the Building Committee meeting on July 10.

OLD BUSINESS

Changes to the Budget Resolutions made by the RTM

Mr. Ramer reviewed the Law Committee's deliberation on the RTM's Amendments to Budget Resolutions 12, 19 and 24. The Law Committee despite dissatisfactions with the words "approved" and "rental" voted 2-0 to accept the RTM Amendment to Resolution 12 subject to a determination by Ms. Ahmad and Mr. Gieger on the origin or sponsor of Resolution 12. They subsequently learned that no Town Department proposed or utilizes this Amendment. Upon further consideration, the members of the Law Committee suggested to the BET that the BET decline to accept the RTM's Amendment to Resolution 12. In addition, Mr. Ramer explained that the Law Committee voted 1-1 on the Amendments to Resolutions 19 and 24. Ms. Tarkington proposed making the \$5,000 an aggregate cap for all donors. Resolution 24 was split on the same basis. The Law Committee also suggested that the language in future years might track Paragraph 15. A discussion followed regarding the impact on Town business if the BET declines to accept the RTM's amendments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 not to accept the Amendments to Budget Resolutions 12, 19, and 24, as modified by the RTM at the May 14, 2012 Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

OPEB Trust Board Re-nominations

Mr. Bedrosian read the following resolution on behalf of the Investment Advisory Committee:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Estimate and Taxation reappoint Philip Skidmore to a term on the OPEB Trust Board, expiring June 30, 2015.

Upon a motion by Mr. Bedrosian, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Estimate and Taxation reappoint Robert Stricker of the OPEB Board, as Chairman of said board, for another term ending June 30, 2013.

Upon a motion by Mr. Bedrosian, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the resolution.

OPEB Investment Policy Statement

Mr. Bedrosian provided an overview of the proposed changes to the OPEB Trust's Investment Policy, and he reported that the Investment Advisory Committee voted 4-0 to approve the revised Investment Policy. Mr. Bedrosian read the following resolution on behalf of the Investment Advisory Committee:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Estimate and Taxation adopt the updated Investment Policy Statement (IPS) for the Other Post Employment Benefit Trust.

A discussion followed regarding BET review of OPEB Investment Policy changes.

Upon a motion by Mr. Bedrosian, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the resolution.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BET Regular Meeting, May 21, 2012

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 May 21, 2012.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Kiernan shared brief comments regarding the GOSA negotiations and meeting with Mr. Mynarski.

Mr. Mason shared brief comments regarding meeting with Mr. Mynarski, meetings with the Firefighters Association and visits to potential firehouse sites in Northwest Greenwich, and recent RTM and District 8 meetings. Mr. Mason noted that Project Renew will likely be on the July meeting agenda. He also reminded the members of the upcoming IPAD Training Session, and Mr. Brady gave a brief overview of the training.

Mr. Tesei shared comments regarding Town Hall meeting space and protocol, as well as the details for the former First Selectperson Ruth Sim's memorial service.


ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Goldrick, seconded by Mr. Brady, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman