The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

The Committee voted unanimously to take the following item out of order.

CC-1 Conservation Commission – Approval to Use - $5,000

Approval to Use:
$ 5,000 to A172-51440 Veg. Survey IBA at GCI
$ 5,000 from Audubon Connecticut – IBA Grant Award

Ms. Savageau explained that she was seeking approval to accept the Grant, as well as the approval to add the Grant to their appropriations. The funds are to be used, in addition to funds appropriated, to hire a consultant to do a vegetation survey at Great Captains Island. Ms. Savageau stated that the Conservation Commission Resolution for FY10 should be amended to say that they are authorized to accept grants and donations.

After further clarification, Mr. Mason asked Mr. Geiger to change the request to “additional appropriation”, for the Monday meeting of the BET.
The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

FD-1  Fire Department – Transfer - $188,092

Transfer:
$ 141,352 to A202-51100 Overtime
$ 46,740 to A202-51490 Professional Services
$ 188,092 from A202-53550 Mechanical Supplies

Mr. Mynarski explained that this is to correct an error in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

FD-2  Fire Department – Transfer - $192,290

Transfer:
$ 192,290 to A202-51100 Overtime
$ 27,365 from A201-51010 Regular Salary
$ 49,079 from A202-51490 Prof and Other Svcs
$ 20,000 from A202-52100 Travel
$ 15,763 from A204-51010 Regular Salary
$ 80,083 from A208-51490 Prof and Other Svcs

Mr. Mynarski explained this is request for the Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Mason requested that the Fire Chief present an explanation of this item.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

NW-3  Nathaniel Witherell – Transfer - $100,000

Transfer:
$ 76,400 to A450-51300 Part Time Workers
$ 23,600 to A450-51420 Prof Medical Dental
$ 5,000 from A450-52020 Printing & Binding Reports
$ 6,000 from A450-52050 Postage
$ 5,000 from A450-52090 Tuition Town Employees
$ 64,000 from A450-52220 Electric Service
$ 3,000 from A450-52230 Gas Service (not heating)
$ 5,000 from A450-52240 Telephone
$12,000 from A450-52260 Fuel for Heating

Mr. Augustine gave an overview of the changes in operations at Nathaniel Witherell resulting in the reason for the request.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Mr. Simon, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:55 P.M. to discuss settlement of legal claims.

In attendance were:
Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Geiger, Budget Director
Peter Tesei, First Selectman
BET Members: Mason, Stone, Simon, Campbell, Finger, Kelly, Norton, Ramer, and Walko
Law Department: Eugene McLaughlin and Valerie Maze Keeney

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 7:31 P.M to discuss settlement of legal claims.

SE-1 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - $15,000

Additional Appropriation:
$15,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Thaqi vs. Town of Greenwich
$15,000 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

SE-2 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - $25,000

Additional Appropriation:
$25,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Wilson vs. Town of Greenwich
$25,000 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.
SE-3  First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - $55,244

Additional Appropriation:
$ 55,244 to P935-57350 Settlement - Spezzano & Valenti vs. Town of Greenwich

$ 55,244 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

SE-4  First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - $12,500

Additional Appropriation:
$ 12,500 to P935-57350 Settlement - Auz vs. Town of Greenwich

$ 12,500 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

ED-1  Board of Education – Release of Conditions - $75,000

Release of Conditions:
$ 75,000 to Z68017952-59550-25110 Hamilton Avenue School Project

Mr. Mazza presented the committee with an updated list of the proposed change orders for the project. In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Mazza stated that the project is in the final stages of inspection, although the Building Department will not sign off until everything is complete. However, they will issue a temporary CO without the steel panels being installed, as long as the building is kept water-tight.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Mazza explained the process involving the change orders. A discussion followed regarding change orders and claims.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

ED-2  Board of Education – Major Object Code Transfer - $12,068

Transfer:
$ 12,068 to A6001793-57350 Settlement
$ 12,068 from A6001793-51010 Regular Salaries
The committee voted 3-0 to approve the transfer under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

**PW-1  Department of Public Works –Transfer - $17,356**

Transfer:
$17,356 to A312-51920 Work Transfer To/From Other Dept.
$17,356 from A312-52920 Work Transfer To/From Other Dept.

Mr. Monelli explained this request is to pay for snow removal and clean-up from wind storms for the Fiscal Year 2008.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

**PW-2  Department of Public Works –Additional Appropriation - $200,000**

Additional Appropriation:
$ 200,000 to Z345-59560-28023 Art Barn Restoration
$ 200,000 from Capital Non-Recurring

Mr. Monelli explained these funds are to pay the architect for a new set of drawings ($26,000) and provide a 20% contingency which is necessary on a renovation project.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

**Discussion of Current Board of Education Transfer Policy**

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the committee voted 3-0 to recommend to the BET to continue in force the Board of Education Transfer Policy for one more year.

**Discussion of Capital Project and Operating Budget Closeouts**

Mr. Mason explained that this is a continuation of the process begun at last month’s Budget Committee meeting. Mr. Mason explained that as per the resolution in the Budget, an authorization has been requested from the RTM to take all lapsed appropriations or surpluses from Capital Projects out of the General Fund and to put them into Capital Non-Recurring for future appropriations.

In response to Mr. Mason, Mr. Geiger stated that they have closed out $2.7 million since May. The funds reverted back to Capital Non-Recurring. A discussion followed regarding the outstanding projects.
2010 Budget Discussion

Mr. Mason stated that the Budget Cycle for FY10 is beginning. Mr. Geiger prepared for review a comparison of the FY09 Budget with the FY10 Estimated Budget for review. Mr. Mason stated that Budget Guidelines will be discussed in September and passed by the BET in October this year.

Mr. Tesei stated that he asked Town Departments to look for ways to find savings such as to delay filling positions. Departments have also been encouraged to conserve spending in other areas and Mr. Tesei gave some examples. Mr. Tesei stated that he is looking at FY09 as a starting point for next year.

A discussion followed and Mr. Mynarski was asked to propose a calendar of monthly discussion items for the Budget Committee beginning in September 2008.

Mr. Walko announced that the Human Resources Committee will be discussing the Hay Study at their meeting on Friday, July 18th, so please get comments in before then. Also, the Planning & Zoning presentation of the proposed BOCD at the July 21st BET meeting will not be until at least 8:30 P.M., so the Regular BET Meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. in order to avoid having a special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2008, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman

Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation Budget Committee
July 15, 2008- FINAL