MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, July 21, 2008 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Stephen Walko called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Stephen G. Walko, Chairman
Robert S. Stone, Vice Chairman
Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk
Nancy E. Barton
James S. Campbell
William R. Finger
William G. Kelly
Edward T. Krumeich, Jr.
Michael S. Mason
Arthur D. Norton
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Laurence B. Simon

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Ted Gwartney, Assessor; Susan Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent, Board of Education; Diane Fox, Director Planning and Zoning, Town Planner

Also Present: Frank Mazza, Chairman, Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee; Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman, Board of Education; Don Heller, Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Walko announced that this month a baby girl was born to Mr. Campbell, a granddaughter to Mr. Norton, and a grandson to Mr. Ramer. Congratulations to all.

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Budget Committee:

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
FD-2  Fire Department – Transfer - $192,290 (FY08)

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

NW-3  Nathaniel Witherell – Transfer - $100,000 (FY08)

Transfer:
$ 76,400 to A450-51300 Part Time Workers
$ 23,600 to A450-51420 Prof Medical Dental
$ 5,000 from A450-52202 Printing & Binding Reports
$ 6,000 from A450-52205 Postage
$ 5,000 from A450-52209 Tuition Town Employees
$ 64,000 from A450-52220 Electric Service
$ 3,000 from A450-52230 Gas Service (not heating)
$ 5,000 from A450-52224 Telephone
$ 12,000 from A450-52260 Fuel for Heating

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

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

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

SE-3  First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - $55,244

Additional Appropriation:
$ 55,244 to P935-57350 Settlement – Spezzano & Valenti vs. TOG
$ 55,244 from Risk Fund Balance

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

PW-1 Department of Public Works – Transfer - $17,356 (FY08)

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0- to move PW-2 from the routine to the non-routine applications.

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

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Budget Committee:

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

A discussion ensued regarding the contingency amount.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Krumeich, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application subject to release of $125,000 upon receipt and acceptance of a report by the DPW evidencing the need for the contingency amount.

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

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

Mr. Mazza gave an explanation for the request. A discussion followed regarding inspections, change orders, and completion of the project.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.
ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Mr. Gwartney presented the Assessor’s Report to the Board.

In response to Ms. Tarkington, Mr. Gwartney stated that the revaluation company is undertaking a field review. They are making changes, either upward or downward, and removing or adding new land influence factors as necessary. At Ms. Tarkington’s request, Mr. Gwartney agreed to provide additional information regarding the differential in value on the 1,086 parcels due to the completed building permit work and the increase in value of the land on the 81 property splits and mergers.

In response to Mr. Finger, Mr. Gwartney explained that there were some miscalculations due to the MUNIS system and corrections will be made by the MUNIS Company. In response to Mr. Walko, Mr. Gwartney stated that the Law Dept., after 2 ½ months, has not responded regarding the agreement with an outside vendor to provide real property information on-line to the public.

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

BET COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS and SPECIAL PROJECT TEAMS’ REPORTS

OPEB Trust Board – Mr. Stone
Ad Hoc OPEB Committee - Mr. Stone
Shared Services Task Force - Ms. Barton, Mr. Mason
Community Development Block Grant Committee - Ms. Barton, Mr. Mason
Havemeyer and Old Town Hall Study Team - Mr. Stone, Ms. Barton
Glennville School Building Committee – Mr. Norton
Elderly Tax Relief Project Team – Mr. Krumeich, Ms. Tarkington
Nathaniel Witherell Liaison – Mr. Krumeich, Ms. Tarkington
Microsoft Project/GIS – Mr. Campbell, Mr. Simon
Human Resources Committee – Ms. Tarkington
Land Use Agencies/Building Dept. Space Utilization and Cross-Operational Review – Mr. Ramer, Mr. Walko

Mr. Norton stated that the Audit Committee report will be emailed to the Board Members Tuesday morning. In response to Mr. Kelly regarding the Havemeyer Building, Mr. Stone stated that the Board of Education will not exclude the possibility of leasing.

COMPTROLLER’S REPORT

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller’s report to the Board. In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Mynarski stated that he will look into the cost of the credit card payment option to the Board of Education for tuition payments by non-resident employees. In response to Mr. Finger, Mr. Mynarski stated that the Treasurer has a $80,000 budgetary account to be used as compensating balances for both banking services and credit card fees. Mr. Mynarski also stated that this was a recommendation by the internal auditor.

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 PERIODS OF JUNE 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2008

Mr. Mynarski presented the Treasurer's report to the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting, June 16, 2008

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from June 16, 2008 as amended.

OFFICER'S REPORT

There will be no regular August Board of Estimate and Taxation meeting.

On August 4th and 5th, Mr. Walko will participate as a member of the First Selectman's committee to interview candidates for the Commissioner of Public Works.

Mr. Walko and Mr. Tesei have been meeting with the North Mianus sewer litigants.

Mr. Walko appointed Mr. Finger to the Byram Pool Committee.

Mr. Walko stated that the BET will have a member represent the BET on the BOE Secondary Education Review committee.

The Comptroller has been asked to plan systemic reviews of RFP's and/or RFI's relative to services such as health insurance, insurance brokers, investment managers, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Extend Current BOE Transfer Policy for Additional Year

Mr. Mason stated that this will be the third year this policy will be in effect, in which all transfers less than $10,000 will be delegated to the Comptroller. Transfers of $10,000 or more will be delegated to the Budget Committee.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0, to approve this action.

BET Delegation of Authority to the BET OPEB Ad Hoc Committee to Appoint an Actuary
Mr. Stone gave an explanation for this request stating that the Ad Hoc Committee plans to make a selection on July 23.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0, to approve this action.

The Board took a short recess at 8:24 p.m.

Mr. Walko stated that Despina Fassuliotis, Chairman of the RTM 75th Anniversary Committee; told him that the BET will turn 100 next summer. Upon verification of this fact, Mr. Simon will be the chair to plan the celebration.

Planning and Zoning POCO Presentation

Mr. Heller and Ms. Fox gave a presentation and overview on the proposed Planning and Zoning Plan of Conservation and Development to the Board. They provided information on the background of those involved in the preparation of the plan, cited weaknesses in the Town’s zoning enforcement, and discussed the objectives of the POCO. They highlighted the areas of 16 specific implementation items stated in the POCO that may apply to the BET.

A discussion followed regarding the Board’s response to the POCO. Mr. Walko will appoint two liaisons to whom BET members should provide their comments. The liaisons will meet with Mr. Heller and Ms. Fox and relay the BET members comments and input.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk of the Board

Stephen G. Walko, Chairman