



MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, August 4, 2014 in the Town Hall Cone Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman  
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman  
William Drake, Clerk  
John Blankley  
William R. Finger  
Sean Goldrick  
Randall Huffman  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
Nancy Weissler

Board Members absent: Marc V. Johnson, Mary Lee Kiernan

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; John Crary, Town Administrator; Amy Seibert, Commissioner DPW; Richard Feminella, Wastewater Division Manager; John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney, Gene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney

Mr. Mason opened the meeting noting that this Special Meeting was called in response to notification from the Department of Public Works that it recommended that a special item be placed on the BET's Agenda.

### **REQUEST FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015**

<u>PW-2</u>	<u>DPW</u>	<u>Additional Appropriation</u>
\$5,600,000	J361 9650 15214	Horseneck & Shore Road Sanitary Sewer Rehab

Ms. Seibert introduced the application by advising the Board that during February's budget hearings DPW had indicated that the condition of the important sewer facilities near Horseneck Lane and Shore Road was likely to require rehabilitation, although additional analysis was required to determine the scope of the repairs, maintenance and costs. Now that this additional work was complete, the need for the rehabilitation was found to be urgent.

Mr. Feminella provided further explanation. Referring to several maps available at the Special Meeting, he noted that the pipes and related assets near Horseneck Lane and Shore Road

comprised a vital sub-system which included a 54" pipe spanning the Horseneck Brook, through which flows essentially all the wastewater from the east and west sides of Greenwich to the Grass Island Waste Water Treatment Plant. He indicated that emergency repairs were critically needed to avoid a potentially major problem. Town staff and DPW's consultant, CDM Smith, visually examined this sewer line sub-system during inspections of portions of Greenwich's 185 miles of sewers in late 2013 and concluded that a further structural inspection needed to be performed. This was accomplished in February 2014 with results obtained in spring 2014 that noted significant deterioration which was worse than anticipated. The deteriorated condition and potential consequences of its failure prompted immediate initiation of the design phase, planning, permitting and cost analysis.

The planned work ranges from in-situ rehabilitation to replacement. Three (3) temporary bypasses are needed during the rehabilitation process. Following BET and RTM approval, the project would require two weeks to gather materials, 35 days to install bypasses and two months to complete the work before Thanksgiving. Cost savings are anticipated by using a bridgework contractor already on site and work would be scheduled to minimize disruption to commuter parking.

Mr. Mason asked Ms. Seibert what would happen if the work was not done immediately. She indicated as an example the expense and disruption of an unplanned failure such as the 1998 sewer pipe break on Arch Street (sic). An immediate decision to initiate this work is justified based on the risk of system failure, the need to carry out this work in the non-freezing season, and concern for added costs should the 24/7 staffing requirement at the 3 bypass areas' temporary pumps need to be extended.

A discussion followed in which Board members asked specific questions about useful life of materials, complexity of the project, selection of optimal location for bypasses, and realistic assessment of contingency funds needed. DPW elected to avoid a full RFP process which would delay this urgently needed work and pose risk to the town. However, the selected contractors have done extensive prior work for the town and arrangements with these contractors provide sufficient assurance that their terms are satisfactory.

Whereas DPW's budget had a portion of the needed funding in its large diameter sewer maintenance fund, a portion of those funds are designated for other projects during FY2014-2015. Mr. Mason asked Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Geiger to comment on impact on the budget and then asked Ms. Seibert for precedents on extraordinary rehabilitation and repair costs. He asked Mr. Fox to clarify whether the project should be considered sewer maintenance or sewer improvement and asked him to inform the Board on policy from the Town charter on whether short-term pay-as-you-go or long-term funding should be applied. Mr. Fox commented that historically keeping existing facilities in operating condition was the rule of thumb for maintenance, while increasing fixed assets and capacity would typically categorize a project as an improvement.

Mr. Fox explained how the approval process would differ for the application as a maintenance request or bonding. Mr. Fox said that this appropriation could be funded in the Sewer Improvement Fund and fit with its definitions by BET policy or the Charter as an improvement, also. Board members exchanged views on who would ultimately pay for the repair and rehabilitation and who would benefit.

Mr. Mason reminded the Board that if this question had come up during the budgeting process, it would likely have been considered maintenance, not improvement. He noted that there had

been two reasons for today's Special Meeting. A sewer malfunction would be a crisis causing potential taxpayer and town complaints. Also, the RTM is prepared to cooperate by calling a special meeting so that emergency repairs can be undertaken in a timely manner, rather than waiting to approve the project at its October meeting.

Mr. Geiger commented that this budget adjustment would be a vote for an additional appropriation since \$3 million of the \$5.6 million request was already in DPW's budget. Mr. Geiger suggested that \$3.1 million would be an appropriate application amount. Discussion included other maintenance projects that could arise during the remainder of the fiscal year and the sufficiency of the contingency for the proposed project.

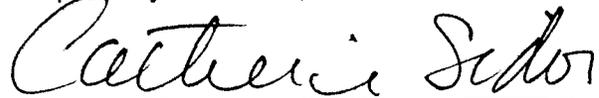
Mr. Huffman proposed a motion, seconded by Mr. Goldrick, that the application be financed out of the Sewer Improvement Fund. The Board voted 2-7-1. (In favor: Huffman and Goldrick, abstaining:Tarkington). Motion failed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 8-2-0 (Opposed: Goldrick, Huffman) to appropriate \$3.1 million to DPW's J361 9650 15214 account.

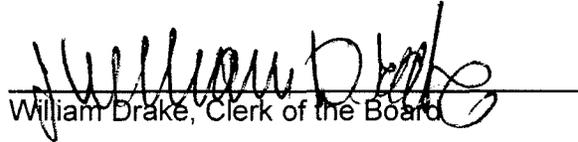
## ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Blankley, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 10-0-0 to adjourn at 11:06 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman