MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Friday, August 15, 2008 in the Town Hall Cone Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Stephen Walko called the meeting to order at 4:40 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
James S. Campbell
William R. Finger
Edward T. Krumeich, Jr.
Michael S. Mason
Arthur D. Norton
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Laurence B. Simon

Board members absent: Nancy E. Barton, William G. Kelly

Ex-Officio Board Members: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Peter Crumbine, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; John Crary, Town Administrator; Betty Sternberg, Superintendent, BOE; Susan Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent, BOE; Frank Mazza, Chairman, Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATION:

ED- 3 Board of Education - Interim Appropriation - $500,000

Interim Appropriation:
$ 500,000 to Z-68017952-59550-25110 Hamilton Avenue School Bldg Com
$ 500,000 from Capital Non Recurring Fund

Mr. Walko stated that a significant amount of work has been done over the last few weeks and there are only a few items left to complete the project. This appropriation is for premium pay, potential change orders, and contingency. At some point, the Board will discuss accountability of this project and the areas that need to be looked at, so that the Town doesn’t repeat history.

Mr. Walko also stated that, one of the issues was that there was an insufficient contingency. At the time the contract was entered into there was only a $97,000 contingency on a $27,000,000
The Town is working with all parties involved to develop a plan to resolve the issues with the air flow and emergency lighting, which are the two major issues that are preventing the Building Department from granting the TCO. It is anticipated that all of the issues will be resolved within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Walko recognized the efforts of Mr. Mazza, Mr. Crary and the Pecora Brothers, the latter of whom are consultants hired by the BOE.

Mr. Mazza gave an overview of the problems the Building Committee has experienced with the Contractor concerning overtime costs, emergency lighting, and the air flow system. The Committee has been trying to move the project along, but the Contractor must call for inspections and do the work.

Mr. Crary stated that he has been involved with this complicated problem for about three weeks, at the request of Mr. Tesei. He recognized all the work done by Mr. Mazza as a volunteer. Mr. Crary enlisted the help of the Building Department to identify the items needed to get the TCO and to have the Board of Education take over the building. Mr. Crary gave an explanation of the problems and possible solutions. A discussion followed regarding the amount of work and funding needed to complete the project.

In response to Mr. Stone, Dr. Sternberg stated that the Building Committee will evaluate the building after the TCO is received and will make a determination as to what remains to be done to receive the CO, which is project specific. In response to Mr. Ramer, Dr. Sternberg gave an explanation of the timeline and disbursement of students.

A Special Meeting of the BET will be held on September 8, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Walko, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 10-0-0 to approve the application subject to release, in whole or in part, on the acceptance of a report from the Building Committee as to the utilization of the appropriation.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk of the Board

Stephen G. Walko, Chairman