MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, September 10, 2012 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:31 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; Michael Rosen, Executive Assistant, Selectmen's Office; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Robert Shipman, Assistant Assessor; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development; Amy Siebert, Public Works Commissioner; Alan Monelli, Superintendent Building Construction and Maintenance, Public Works Department; Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief; Robert Kick, Assistant Fire Chief; Joseph Siciliano, Parks and Recreation Director; Tom Greco, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; Eugene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney; Allen Brown, Executive Director, Nathaniel Witherell; Ray Augustine, Director of Financial Operations, Nathaniel Witherell
Other: Lloyd Bankson, Nathaniel Witherell Board; Andy Fox, Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee; John Chadwick, Retirement Board

Mr. Mason opened the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Budget for FY 2013 at 6:32 P.M. There being no comments, the session was closed at 7:07 P.M.

NON-Routine APPLICATIONS

CD-1 Community Development – Approval to Use $663,718

Approval to Use:
$ 663,718 to Q197-57500 CDBG FY 2013 Budget
Ms. Kiernan gave an overview of the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grant Program, highlighting the CDBG due diligence process, increased demand for funding and decreased grants from this federal program.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

PW-1 Public Works – Release of Conditions $2,459,000

Release of Conditions:
$2,459,000 to B345-59560-13139 Central Fire Station

Mr. Pellegrino explained that this item will release funds to demolish the Central Fire Station, and he reviewed the three conditions to release. The conditions included acceptance of plans and cost estimates for the proposed future construction of the Central Fire Station, along with final approvals from all Land Use Agencies and an environmental report of the existing site. These conditions were met and the Budget Committee voted 4-0 in favor of this item. Mr. Johnson shared comments regarding the review and planning process. Mr. Tesei also shared comments regarding the efforts of the BET, Mr. Monelli, the DPW, and the Fire Administration, highlighting building and public safety requirements.

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

PR-1 Parks and Recreation – Additional Appropriation $206,000

Additional Appropriation:
$ 206,000 to Z833-59730-11169 Replace Greenwich Point Waterline
$ 206,000 from Capital Non Recurring

Mr. Pellegrino explained that this request was made for additional funds in connection with the replacement of a waterline at Greenwich Point. Construction will require horizontal drilling beneath Eagle Pond, and the cost of this drilling has increased over the original estimate. The Budget Committee voted 4-0 in favor of this item.

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

SE-2 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation $570,000

Additional Appropriation:
$ 570,000 to P935-57350 Settlement
$ 570,000 from Risk Fund Balance

Mr. Ramer explained that this request was made in connection with a legal settlement. He explained that $418,000 has already been allocated for the cost of expert witnesses and expenses. The Law Committee voted 2-0 in favor of this item.
Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

NW-2 Nathaniel Witherell – Release of Conditions $155,000

Release of Conditions:
$ 155,000 to B450-59560-12201 Project Renew

Mr. Pellegrino stated that the request would release funds for a sprinkler system in the administration building at Nathaniel Witherell mandated by the state. Two votes were taken by the Budget Committee on this item. The Budget Committee voted 4-0 in favor of the release and voted 4-0 in favor of funding the sprinkler system out of Project Renew, instead of fixed charges, per Ms. Tarkington’s suggestion.

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

RE-1 Retirement Board – Policy Amendment

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the amendments are required by the Internal Revenue Service and the Internal Revenue Code, in order for the Retirement System document to comply with Internal Revenue Code provisions. Mr. McLaughlin gave an overview of the periodic IRS review process, and the approvals required for amendment. A discussion followed regarding the BET’s process for review and approval of the proposed amendments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adopt the Amendment 2012-1 to the Retirement System document, subject to review and unanimous approval by the Law Committee.

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

CD-2 Community Development – Transfer $26,330

Transfer:
$ 26,330 to Q197-59900-11220 HATG McKinney Terrace II – Installation of New Elevator
$ 26,330 from Q197-59900-11221 HATG McKinney Terrace II – Main Entrance Renovation

HD-4 Health – Approval to Use $2,500

Approval to Use:
$ 390 to F40327-51490 Professional Services NOC
$ 2,110 to F40327-52920 Work Transfer to and From
$ 2,500 from State of CT Lead Grant

HD-5 Health – Transfer $54,927

Transfer:
$ 51,024 to F4037-51300 Part-Time Salaries
$3,903 to F4037-57050 Social Security Benefits
$54,927 from F4037-51490 Professional Services NOC

PD-1 Police Department – Approval to Use $6,500

Approval to Use:
$6,500 to F213-53950 Canine Purchase
$6,500 from F213-35018 Federal Asset Forfeiture

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

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Ms. Elliott presented the Assessor’s Report, highlighting Board of Assessments Appeals motor vehicles hearings, the large mailing for personal property declarations and preparations for the Grand List. A discussion followed regarding software issues and public notifications regarding motor vehicle appeals.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, 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 analysis comparing the investment performance of the Retirement System and OPEB Trust funds. Mr. Pellegrino proposed that the Retirement Board add two additional members with investment experience. Mr. Chadwick gave an overview of the Retirement Board’s responsibilities, limitations and processes, and he acknowledged the need for additional equity investment expertise. A discussion ensued regarding the performance and administration of the Retirement System, and Mr. Mason suggested a BET study on potential changes for the Retirement Board.

Mr. Mynarski also highlighted the success of the Town’s new Risk Manager with subrogation of insurance claims.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, 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 PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2012 – AUGUST 31, 2012

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

BET Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee Reports.

BET Liaison Reports

The Revaluation Team Report was included in the Agenda packet.
BET Special Project Team Reports

The GHS MISA/Remediation Report and a review of the Central Fire Station Capital Improvement Plan were included in the Agenda packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised COLA Policy

A discussion ensued regarding the approval process and the role of collective bargaining in revisions to COLA terms. This item was postponed.

Guidelines

All comments, edits, and changes on the initial draft of the Budget Guidelines must be sent to the Budget Committee and copied to Mr. Gieger prior to the Budget Guidelines workshop, which will be held on Tuesday, September 25th.

OLD BUSINESS

OPEB Investment Policy Statement

Mr. Mynarski gave an overview of the Investment Policy Statement and revisions. Mr. Bedrosian described the process by which amendments to the IPS were developed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Bedrosian, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adopt the OPEB Investment Policy Statement, as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BET Regular Meeting, July 16, 2012

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from July 16, 2012.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Mason shared comments regarding the Byram River Flooding project, BET participation in GOSA negotiations, his meeting with the new Superintendent, participation in the Volunteer Fire Chief's monthly meeting, progress on the Library Agreement, and the importance of the Budget Guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Goldrick, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,