



MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in the Board Conference Room, Board of Education – Havemeyer Building Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. He thanked attendees and explained that the meeting had been posted for public attendance according to FOI rules, that attendance was being taken and Minutes would be available after approval by the BET. He noted that eleven (11) members of the BET were present.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman  
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman  
William Drake, Clerk  
John Blankley  
Mary Lee A. Kiernan  
James A. Lash  
Leslie Moriarty  
Jill K. Oberlander  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
Nancy Weissler

Board member absent: Elizabeth K. Krumeich

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; John Toner, Selectman

RTM District and Standing Committee Chairmen and Members:

Abby Large	D-9	
Alan Small	D-10	Transportation Chair
Alexis Voulgaris	D-6	
Arline Lomazzo		Public Works Chair
Bill Galvin	D-7	
Bob Allen	D-3	BOC Committee
Bob Cenci	D-6	
Bob Krasnor	D-5	
Bob May	D-12	
Carol Zarrilli	D-9	
Chris Sandys	D-1	
Coline Jenkins	D-6	
Danyal Ozizmir	D-5	

David DeMilhau	D-12	
George Sorenson	D-6	
John Dolan	D-7	District Vice Chair
John Eddy	D-8	Appointments Chair
Karen Fassuliotis	D-7	
Kim Fiorello		RTC D-7
Laura Erickson		BOE Chair
Lucia Jansen	D-7	BOC Chair
Lucy Krasnor	D-5	District Chair
Mike Warner	D-3	Finance Chair
Peter Berg	D-8	Land Use Chair
Richard Neuman	D-11	Town Service Chair
Robert Perelli-Minetti	D-12	
Susan Faher	D-11	District Chair
Tom Byrne		RTM Moderator
Valerie Stauffer	D-7	District Chair

Other: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*

Mr. Mason began the dialogue with an overview of the factors that would impact BET decision-making during its process of arriving at the Town's 2017-2018 Budget: the Fire Department; construction of a new New Lebanon School building; Town union labor negotiations; The Nathaniel Witherell finances; the School Lunch Fund; cost of Town employee healthcare; and, the Retirement Fund. Background information was provided on the BET's experience with each of the factors. He then noted that the Town's revenue from fees was less than several years ago, interest on cash was reduced, and there was a concern that the State might reduce its contributions to the Town. He concluded his introductory remarks by reviewing the Town's Capital Project commitments.

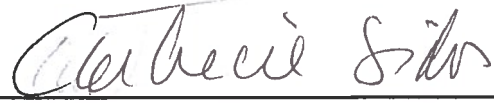
Members of the RTM then asked questions about the Town's operating costs.

Mr. Mason referred attendees to a handout of the Town of Greenwich 10 Year Budgetary Forecast (Fiscal Years of 2005 – 2015), noting that those earlier projections were fairly accurate. He suggested that policy changes would be needed to reduce the Town's operating costs. Lucia Jansen, Chair of the RTM Budget Overview Committee had recently circulated a letter expressing concern about a potential "looming budget crisis"; she commented that the letter contained recommendations for "zero-based" budgeting; 1.5% salary increases for the BOE, Fire and Police; consolidation of duplicative positions and full disclosure of each department's employee costs to be factored into departmental budgets.

A discussion of the cost of maintenance and Capital Improvement Projects was referred to Mr. Tesei for his comments. He noted that the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) process was based on prioritization of projects, maintenance and new initiatives that served the Town's population. He indicated that a survey of Greenwich residents' opinions in October would inform the First Selectman's Office recommendations for the 2017-2018 CIP list.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



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William Drake, Clerk of the Board



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Michael S. Mason, Chairman