



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) held on Monday, October 16, 2023 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Dan Ozizmir called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman
Nisha Arora, Clerk
William Drake
Laura Erickson
Karen Fassuliotis
Harry Fisher
Miriam Kreuzer
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Stephen Selbst
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller, Lauren Elliott, Assessor, Roland Gieger, Budget Director, James Waters, Old Greenwich School Building Committee Chairman

Other: Don Conway, GCTV.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Request for Budget Adjustments

ROUTINE APPLICATION

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
RV-1	Registrar of Voters	\$122,000	Approval to Use
	F120 Various Accounts		Grant Proceeds

The Board Clerk, Ms. Arora, read the Routine Applications into the record.

- Ms. Tarkington made a motion to approve the Routine Application, seconded by Ms. Arora. The Board approved the Routine Applications 12-0-0 by unanimous consent.

3. NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
ED-1	Board of Education	\$42,017,000	Additional Appropriation
	B680 59560 24336		Central Middle School

Chairman Ozizmir told the Board, that under advice from legal counsel, the Board would not be taken this item up. The Town Attorney had previously advised both the BET Budget Committee and the BET that the item was not in legal order due to Municipal Improvement (MI) not being approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission for the project.

Mr. Ramer called for a point of order citing the Chairman can not pull an item from the agenda without a vote of the Board. Mr. Ramer cited the BET Reference Manual, Robert’s Rules, and Connecticut Statute. As a result, Mr. Ramer made a motion to continue the item until Thursday, October 19, 2023, subsequent to the Planning and Zoning Commission taking up MI for this project on October 18th. Mr. Weisbrod seconded the motion.

After an extended discussion, Mr. Ramer made a motion to appeal the action of the Chairman to take the item off of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Selbst. The vote was 6-6-0 (Arora, Drake, Fassuliotis, Fisher, Ozizmir & Tarkington voting against the item; Erickson, Kreuzer, Moriarty, Ramer, Selbst & Weisbrod voting for the item) Motion failed, the action of the Chairman was sustained.

On the original motion to continue the item until October 19, 2023, the vote was 6-6-0 (Arora, Drake, Fassuliotis, Fisher, Ozizmir & Tarkington voting against the item; Erickson, Kreuzer, Moriarty, Ramer, Selbst & Weisbrod voting for the item).

FI-3 Finance Bonding Resolution for Central Middle School

With no action on the above-noted item (ED-1), there was no vote on FI-3.

ED-2	Board of Education	\$1,086,000	Release of Conditions
	B680 5=9560 24342		Old Greenwich Expansion & Renovation

Ms. Tarkington gave the Board the report of the BET Budget Committee citing that there were three conditions on this item including (1) a BET independent estimate of the partial renovation of OGS vs a new school, (2) BET approval of an itemized renovation budget, and (3) MI approval by the P&Z. The BET independent estimate and approval of the itemized project budget were waived, and it was noted that P&Z has approved the MI status. The Budget Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the item.

- On a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Board voted 12-0-0 to a Release of Conditions on \$1,086,000 for the Old Greenwich School Expansion and Renovation with a waiver of the following two conditions – the BET independent project estimate and BET approval of an itemized renovation budget. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

ED-3	Board of Education	\$39,796,000	Additional Appropriation
	B680 59560 TBA		Old Greenwich School Renovation

- Ms. Moriarty made a motion for an additional appropriation of \$39,796,000 for the Old Greenwich School Renovation project, seconded by Mr. Selbst. There was an extended discussion on the matter. Old Greenwich School Building Committee Chairman, James Waters, was invited to speak and he offered his comments in approving the item. The vote was 6-6-0 (Arora, Drake, Fassuliotis, Fisher, Ozizmir & Tarkington voting against the item; Erickson, Kreuzer, Moriarty, Ramer, Selbst & Weisbrod voting for the item).

FI-4 Finance Bonding Resolution for Old Greenwich School

ED-3 was not approved for funding, therefore, there was no vote to approve a Bonding Resolution.

4. Assessor’s Report

Ms. Elliott presented the Assessor’s Report. She told the Board that Personal Property Declarations were mailed out on September 27, 2023 and are due back by November 1, 2023. There are 3,778 accounts currently on the Personal Property List, which includes 80 new accounts.

Regarding litigation, on the 2021 Grand List, 4 tax appeals were withdrawn; 1 residential and 3 commercial properties. There was no tax loss to the Town.

Ms. Elliott gave the Board an update on the Personal Property Audit Program.

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

5. Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller’s Report. The report detailed a monthly update on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) on expenditures, cash balances and interest income; stating that earnings on ARP monies invested has reached a total of \$834,315 and the Town has spent \$18,268,331 to date. He added that one of the projects, the Greenwich Library HVAC Equipment project will be coming forward with an additional appropriation to complete the project.

Mr. Mynarski alerted the Board that the Retirement Board has moved its November meeting to Friday, November 27th. The Town’s Actuary will be giving his annual actuarial presentation at that meeting.

- Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Weisbrod, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Comptroller’s Report. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Mynarski presented the Treasurer’s Report highlighting and commenting on individual balances for a number of the different funds as of September 30, 2023.

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

7. BET Standing Committee Reports:

No reports were submitted or presented.

8. BET Liaison Reports:

No reports were submitted or presented.

9. BET Special Project Team Reports

No reports were submitted or presented.

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

None

12. Chair’s Report

No Chair’s Report given.

13. Approval of BET Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Selbst, to approve the Minutes of the BET Regular Meeting of July 17, 2023, the BET Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Selbst, to approve the Minutes of the BET Special Meeting of September 13, 2023, the BET Board voted 10-0-2 (Drake & Kreuzer abstained). Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the BET Regular Meeting of September 18, 2023, the BET Board voted 11-0-1 (Kreuzer abstained). Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Kreuzer, seconded by Mr. Fisher, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 7:51 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary



Nisha Arora, Clerk of the Board



Dan Ozizmir, Chairman