



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, October 17, 2011 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Stephen Walko called the meeting to order at 5:46 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Stephen G. Walko, Chairman
Jim Campbell, Vice Chairman
Joseph L. Pellegrino, Clerk
William R. Finger
Mary Lee Kiernan
William G. Kelly
Michael S. Mason
Arthur D. Norton
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Laurence B. Simon
Leslie L. Tarkington

Absent: Randall Huffman

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo; David Theis

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Dustin Anderson, Executive Assistant, Selectmen's Office; John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Valerie Maze Keeney, Eugene McLaughlin, Jr., Assistant Town Attorneys, Law Department; Ted Gwartney, Assessor; Maureen Kast, Director of Human Resources; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development; Allen Brown, Executive Director, Ray Augustine, Director of Financial Operations, Nathaniel Witherell; Roger Lulow, Superintendent of Schools; Robert Lichtenfeld, Director of Human Resources, Board of Education

Other: David Ormsby, Chairman, Lloyd Bankson, Nathaniel Witherell Board; Leslie Moriarty, Vice Chairman, Board of Education

Mr. Walko gave an overview of the meeting agenda and public hearing.

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

CD-1 Community Development – Approval to Use \$963,718

Approval to Use:
\$ 963,718 to Q197-57500 CDBG FY2012 Budget

\$ 825,000	from		HUD Entitlement
\$ 38,718	from		Program Income (Repayment of Loans)
\$ 100,000	from	Q19710	Reprogrammed Funds (FY2010)

Mr. Mason gave a brief overview of the Community Block Grant approval process.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 10-0-0 (Mr. Mason was absent) to approve the application.

SE-4 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation \$58,059

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 58,059	to	P935-57350	Settlement – Goldstein vs. TOG
\$ 58,059	from		Risk Fund Balance

Mr. Campbell explained that this rose out of a termination of employment and the Law committee voted 2-0 to approve this item at its meeting on October 3, 2011.

Upon a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 11-0-0 to approve the application.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 5:52 P.M. to discuss litigation matters.

In attendance were:

Peter Mynarski; Roland Gieger; J. Wayne Fox; Valerie Maze Keeney; Eugene McLaughlin
BET Members: Walko, Campbell, Pellegrino, Mason, Finger, Kiernan, Kelly, Norton, Ramer, Simon, Tarkington

(Mr. Mason, Mr. Campbell removed themselves from the discussion of SE-6 at 6:07P.M.)

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 6:18 P.M. to discuss litigation matters.

SE-5 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation \$20,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 20,000	to	P935-57350	Settlement – O'Donnell vs. TOG
\$ 20,000	from		Risk Fund Balance

Mr. Campbell explained that this rose out of the plaintiff's previous employment with the Town and the Law committee voted 2-0 to approve this item at its meeting on October 3, 2011.

Upon a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 11-0-0 to approve the application.

SE-6 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation \$XXXXX

This item was withdrawn

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gwartney presented the Assessor's Report to the Board, and shared comments about the work being done in order to complete the 2011 Grand List, and highlighted the Detailed Grand List Schedule and the Greenwich Valid Residential Sales Statistics from 10-1-09 to 9-29-11. A discussion followed regarding trade name registrations and new businesses, and the new administrative software RFP.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 11-0-0 to accept the Assessor's Report.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller's Report to the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 11-0-0 to accept the Comptroller's report.

ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD OF September 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011

A discussion followed regarding the cash flow, and the cash balance policy.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 11-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's Report.

BET Standing Committee Reports

Audit Committee Report

Mr. Norton shared comments regarding the internal audit report process concerning the TOG payments to the volunteer firefighters and that they have not yet complied with their response to the internal audit. The Committee has requested a response by the November meeting. If the Committee does not receive a response by then, it will recommend to the BET that payments be suspended. Mr. Norton also addressed an internal audit of the Assessor and Building Department pertaining to permit valuations and the Committee's request that the TOG at its discretion request for review contracts between owners and contractors.

BET Liaison Reports

BET Special Project Team Reports

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on response to Hay Study

Mr. Walko stated that all the responses regarding the Hay Study have been shared with the Board, and will be sent to the Hay Group for review. Mr. Simon requested a response from the Hay Group by November 10, 2011, in order to have a discussion with the working group and possible follow up if necessary.

Memorial

Mr. Walko shared comments and a moment of silence was observed in memory of former BET member Nancy Barton.

Public Hearing

The public hearing session began at 6:36 P.M. Mr. Walko gave a brief overview of the public hearing process. Mr. Walko also stated that the BET has been studying the Nathaniel Witherell for some time and commissioned Health Dimensions Group (HDG) to review the revised Project Renew. Mr. Walko then gave an overview of the process going forward regarding the bonding resolution concerning Project Renew.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted that discussion by each citizen be limited to three minutes.

Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program FY 2012

There were no citizens wishing to comment on this item.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 11-0-0 to close the public hearing at 7:04 P.M., for the Community Development Block Grant Program FY 2012.

Public Hearing for the Nathaniel Witherell Project Renew

David Ormsby, Chairman, Nathaniel Witherell Board – Mr. Ormsby shared comments regarding a recent show of support from several State and Local politicians regarding Project Renew. Mr. Ormsby also stated that as of September 28th, the State of CT will increase the per diem Medicaid reimbursement rate to \$252.43 per each resident, which equals a 4.1% increase, adding approximately \$2M to Nathaniel Witherell's revenues over the next 30 years, and a petition has been posted at Nathaniel Witherell in favor of Project Renew with more than 600 signatures.

Peter Tesei, First Selectman – Mr. Tesei shared support and comments regarding Project Renew, highlighting the Nathaniel Witherell's broad spectrum of services, dedicated employees, its' five star rating, commendable Board of Directors led by Mr. Ormsby, volunteers, and value to the community.

Christine Edwards – Ms. Edwards spoke in favor of Project Renew, and shared comments regarding rewards to taxpaying senior citizens, short-term rehabilitation, and providing community care.

David Theis, Selectman – Mr. Theis shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the need for humane and passionate care, community values, and personal experiences.

Karen Fassuliotis, RTM District 7 – Ms. Fassuliotis opposed funding the plan, and shared comments regarding the expansion of short-term rehab facility, less attention paid to long-term patients, and requested that the Board come back with a revised plan of renovation.

Drew Marzullo, Selectman – Mr. Marzullo shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the community need.

Ed Krumeich, former BET member – Mr. Krumeich shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the history of the plan, the task to determine financial feasibility, and comparison to the current MISA project.

Stuart Adelberg, President, United Way – Mr. Adelberg shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding local health and human services needs.

Jim Lash, former First Selectman – Mr. Lash shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding financing, incorrect forecasts and projections, the history of the plan, and the strength of the Board and staff.

Bill Drake, Chairman, Budget Overview Committee – Mr. Drake opposed voting on the bonding resolution and shared comments regarding financial analysis, other Town priorities, the debt policy, fiscal responsibilities, and public services. Mr. Drake also noted that the RTM Budget Overview Committee has posted a report on the RTM web site addressing their concerns with Project Renew.

Ken Henderson, resident, Nathaniel Witherell – Mr. Henderson shared support for Project Renew and comments concerning his personal experience.

Trish Babcock, Director of Case Management, Greenwich Hospital – Ms. Babcock shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the need for private short-term care.

Joe Kaliko – Mr. Kaliko shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the flexibility and responsive Board and staff of Nathaniel Witherell.

Bob DeAngelo, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich – Mr. DeAngelo shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the Nathaniel Witherell residents' impact on the children from his program who visit there.

Bob Richardson – Mr. Richardson shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding cash flow, debt, the HDG report, and alternative revenues.

Penny Monahan, former Selectman – Ms. Monahan shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the value to the community, need for renovation, proper financial management, and the intent of the original donors.

John Blankley, RTM District 10 – Mr. Blankley shared support for Project Renew and shared comments regarding bi-partisan support, and the debt policy.

Nancy Brown – Ms. Brown shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding cost control, and community healthcare need.

Sean Goldrick – Mr. Goldrick shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding forecasting, value to the community, and the need to improve and modernize the facilities.

Laura Erikson, RTM District 5 – Ms. Erikson shared reserved support for Project Renew and comments regarding timing of the bonding resolution, annual cash flows, and incorporating the project in the CIP and long-term Capital Plan.

Stephen Soler – Mr. Soler shared support for Project Renew and comments suggesting subsidizing, creative financing, bonding cap, and historic tax credits.

Karen Sadik-Khan – Ms. Sadik-Khan shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding personal experiences and community need.

Sam Deibler, Director, Commission on Aging – Mr. Deibler shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding Nathaniel Witherell's five star rating, commendable staff and programs, the need to make improvements and the competitive environment.

Luci Nevin, Volunteer, Nathaniel Witherell – Ms. Nevin shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding personal experiences, the quality of care, and community need.

Fred Camillo, State Representative, 151st District – Mr. Camillo shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding personal experience, and other Town services operating at a loss.

Lin Lavery, former Selectman – Ms. Lavery shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding commitment to the elderly, Medicare reimbursement, necessary renovations, and community values.

Al DiSapio, Nathaniel Witherell Family Council – Mr. DiSapio shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding quality of life, and quality of care.

Stephanie Paulmeno, former Director of Nursing, Nathaniel Witherell – Ms. Paulmeno shared support for Project Renew and shared comments regarding the administration, community need, increased revenues, and ratings of non-profit facilities.

Peter Arturi, Board of Health – Dr. Arturi shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding personal experiences, the need for renovation, and the length of time of the process.

Bill Bambrick – Mr. Bambrick shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding his personal experiences.

William Evertsberg, Senior Minister, 1st Presbyterian Church – Rev. Evertsberg shared support for Project Renew and his personal experiences with Alzheimer's patients.

Marilyn Ross Cahn, Board of Health – Ms. Cahn shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding the MISA project, and the need for elderly care.

Michael Wacek – Mr. Wacek opposed funding Project Renew and shared comments regarding long-term financial risks and the need for a better renovation plan.

Graham Whitehead, Retired Men’s Association – Mr. Whitehead shared support for Project Renew.

Chris von Keyserling, RTM District 8 – Mr. von Keyserling shared support for Project Renew and comments regarding community values, and financial responsibility.

Ed Krumeich, former BET member – Mr. Krumeich shared further comments regarding the history of Nathaniel Witherell and Project Renew, and the benefit to the community.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 11-0-0 to close the public hearing at 8:28 P.M., for the Nathaniel Witherell Project Renewal.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Walko stated that at the November 21, 2011 BET meeting the Board is scheduled to vote on the Nathaniel Witherell Project Renew, and the Hay Study report, as well as discuss the Cityview software, the Revaluation and the timing from the Assessor’s team. At the December meeting the Board will have a review of the Town’s infrastructure and the CIP process.

A discussion followed regarding action on the Hay Study, implementation of the recommendations, and the budget process. Mr. Kelly expressed the need for further discussion regarding the report. Mr. Simon stated that the OPEB and EFI reports will also come before the Board in December and Mr. Walko stated that scheduling a special meeting may be necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY 2012-2013 Budget Guidelines

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the Budget Guidelines process, and shared comments regarding what is needed to maintain level services, the funding of the Capital model, challenges, and fiscal projections. A discussion followed regarding language changes.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 11-0-0 to accept the FY 2012-2013 Budget Guidelines, as amended by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BET Special Meeting, August 4, 2011

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 10-0-1 (Mr. Kelly abstained) to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the BET from August 4, 2011.

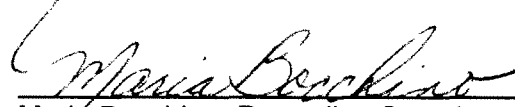
BET Regular Meeting, September 12, 2011

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 10-0-1 (Mr. Kelly abstained) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from September 12, 2011.

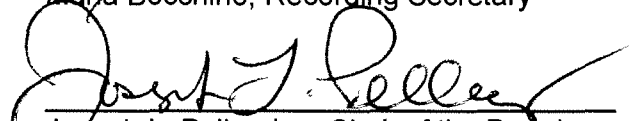
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 P.M.


Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Joseph L. Pellegrino, Clerk of the Board



Stephen G. Waiko, Chairman