



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, October 18, 2021 in a virtual Zoom webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Karen Fassuliotis called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Karen Fassuliotis, Chairman  
Andy Duus, Vice Chairman  
William Drake, Clerk  
Laura Erickson  
Harry Fisher  
Debra Hess  
Miriam Kreuzer  
Elizabeth K. Krumeich  
Leslie Moriarty  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
David Weisbrod

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Fassuliotis requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and an update by the Evaluation Committee for Outside Chief Investment Officer Services for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund under RFP #7631.

Upon a motion by Mr. Duus, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 P.M., the Board voted 12-0-0.

The Board unanimously voted 12-0-0 to exit Executive Session at 7:19 P.M. No votes or motions were made.

### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – 7:22 P.M.

Staff: Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Department (Dept) Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Dept; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Demetria Nelson, Commissioner Human Services Dept

Selectmen: Jill Oberlander, Select Person

BOE: Sean O’Keefe, Chief Operating Officer, Greenwich Public Schools

RTM: Nancy Better (D-11); Dan Ozizmir (D-5); Patty Roberts (Chair, Board of Human Services and RTM D-5)

Public: Nisha Arora; Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Michael Miller, President *ProTem*, TAG Board of Directors; Horst Tebbe, GCTV Engineering

### **Requests for Budget Adjustments**

#### **ROUTINE APPLICATIONS**

<b>HD-1</b>	<b>Health Department</b>	<b>Approval to Use</b>
\$173,396	F4011 Various	ELC COVID-19 Grant
<b>HD-2</b>	<b>Health Department</b>	<b>Approval to Use</b>
\$43,311	F403822 Various	PHEP Grant

Mr. Drake, as the BET Clerk, took a single roll call vote of the Board to approve the use of HD-1 Grant for \$173,396 Grant; and HD-2 Grant for \$43,311. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Ms. Erickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to take up Routine Application CC-1 Conservation Department as a Non-Routine Application. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

#### **NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS**

<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Department</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>
<b>SE-7</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>	<b>Release of Conditions</b>
\$942.50	A105 51490	Professional Services - NOC

Ms. Tarkington reported that the application had received a 2-2-0 vote at the Budget Committee meeting and was forwarded to the full BET for further discussion. A member of the BET questioned whether the consulting activity was consistent with the original appropriations' intent. Mr. Duus and Ms. Tarkington commented that the appropriation was requested by the First Selectman for consulting purposes to clarify Nathaniel Witherell financial position and TNW Board of Directors Chairman found it helpful.

Mr. Drake took a roll call vote of the Board on the question of releasing conditions on \$942.50 of the previously approved consulting appropriation, and the Board voted 11-1-0. (Opposed: Ramer) Motion carried.

<b>TA-2</b>	<b>TAG</b>	<b>Release of Conditions</b>
\$75,000	A440 57221	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Allocation

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee discussed the release of conditions on both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter allocations to TAG. The Committee voted 4-0-0 only for the release of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter allocation. Compliments and gratitude were extended to TAG for its response during the Town's COVID-19 pandemic emergency needs.

Mr. Drake took a roll call vote of the Board on the release of conditions on \$75,000 approved for TAG's 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter allocation, and the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

<b>CC-1</b>	<b>Conservation Department</b>	<b>Additional Appropriation</b>
\$25,015	Z172 59080	Mural

Ms. Tarkington explained that the Budget Committee had approved the appropriation of \$25,015 for the Conservation Commission (a grant from the Greenwich Botanical Center which had previously been accepted by the RTM) for completion of a Pollinator Pathway Mural. The Conservation Department was advised that the appropriation should not be spent until the Law Department completed its review of its contract including indemnification and insurance.

Mr. Drake took a roll call vote of the Board on the question of an additional appropriation of \$25,015 for completion of a Mural, and the Board voted 9-0-3. (Abstain: Fassuliotis, Fisher, Hess) Motion carried.

### **ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

The Town Assessor Ms. Elliott highlighted the following items from her written monthly report. Personal Property declarations are being received with a final receipt deadline of November 1. Building Permits issued since October 1, 2020 will be integrated into the Reval by mid-October. The volume of requests for property cards has been strong and an additional email box ([prc@greenwichct.org](mailto:prc@greenwichct.org)) has been established. Appointment hearings to discuss assessment changes with the Revaluation Company, Tyler Technologies will be scheduled during the day, evening's until 7:00 PM and on Saturdays until 5:00 PM.

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

### **COMPTROLLER'S REPORT**

Town Comptroller Mr. Mynarski opened his remarks with a comment on how much more comfortable and efficient it was to have the outside auditor's staff performing reviews on site due to the volume of transactions and scale of work. He commented on the status of the ARP Act advisory committee's efforts, including identifying potential projects, and a presentation by Commissioner Nelson on resident needs resulting from the pandemic. The Board acknowledged Mr. Branyan's leadership and diligence on the Committee's work.

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

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 11-0-1 to accept the Treasurer's Report. (Abstain: Krumeich). Motion carried.

### **BET Standing Committee Reports - None**

**BET Liaison Reports** - None

**BET Special Project Team Reports** - None

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion and vote on Board of Education Request to Add an Executive Chef position**

Ms. Fassuliotis, Chair of the BET Human Resources Committee, related that an internal BOE audit had identified a change was needed in the Food Services Department organization chart. The request for an Executive Chef resulted from the desire to change from less economical pre-packaged foods to fresher ingredients which would require recipe development and staff training.

Mr. Drake took a roll call vote of the Board on the question of adding an Executive Chef position to BOE Food Services staff, and the Board voted 11-0-1. (Abstain: Erickson) Motion carried.

- **Discussion and vote on FY2023 Budget Guidelines**

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee voted 4-0-0 on the Budget Guidelines for the FY2022-2023. The Guidelines were characterized as balancing the needs of many constituencies cooperatively to fund Town services and Schools, improve the Town's infrastructure and maintain its quality of life. She commented on the following topics in the \$463 million budget Guidelines: salaries, utility costs, increased cost of benefits and pensions. Based on the information available now and the assumptions made in the Guidelines, the Mill Rate would increase 2.5% without considering revenue increases from the October 1, 2021 revaluation Grand List, capital projects that might be funded by ARP, other revenues and use of fund balance.

Ms. Moriarty commented that the Guidelines are not a cap, but rather an estimate based on what was known now, and February/March Budget Hearings would be key to planning and funding the FY2023 Budget. Based on Mr. Ramer's concerns for adequately funding certain items in the Budget, he made the following motions for increased funding.

Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to add \$1.5 million to the FY2023 Budget for the Risk Fund, and the Board voted 3-8-1. (Opposed: Drake, Duus, Fassuliotis, Fisher, Hess, Kreuzer, Tarkington, Weisbrod) (Abstain: Erickson). Motion failed.

Mr. Ramer made a motion seconded by Ms. Krumeich to increase The Nathaniel Witherell subsidy by \$1.5 million to \$3 million, and the Board voted 3-8-1. (Opposed: Drake, Duus, Fassuliotis, Fisher, Hess, Kreuzer, Tarkington, Weisbrod) (Abstain: Erickson). Motion failed.

Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to increase the Capital Projects fund from \$70 million to \$75 million, and the Board voted 5-6-1. (Opposed: Drake, Duus, Fassuliotis, Hess, Tarkington, Weisbrod) (Abstain: Erickson) Motion failed.

A discussion followed among the Board on whether to defray the cost of capital projects through use of the Capital Non-Recurring Fund instead of the Capital Tax Levy or use of Fund Balance. Further discussion was deferred to the February/March Budget Hearings when more information would be known.

Ms. Tarkington made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty to approve the FY2023 Budget Guidelines and the Board voted 9-3-0. (Opposed: Kreuzer, Krumeich, Weisbrod) Motion carried.

### **Approval of BET Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hess, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the BET held on September 19, 2021 as amended and the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.


### **Chair's Report**

Chairman Fassuliotis complimented the BET work on formulating and passing the FY2023 Budget Guidelines. She remarked that she looked forward to meetings being held in-person in November and December.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, to adjourn the meeting, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:58 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



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William Drake, Clerk of the Board



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Karen Fassuliotis, Chairman

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. and will be either virtual, a hybrid meeting or in-person meeting depending on COVID-19 status