MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Friday, October 19, 2018, in the Mazza Room, Greenwich, CT.

Jill Oberlander, BET Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03 A.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Jill K. Oberlander, Chair  
Jeffrey S. Ramer, Vice Chairman  
Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Clerk  
William Drake  
Andreas Duus III  
Karen Fassuliotis  
Michael S. Mason  
Leslie Moriarty  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
Anthony Turner  
David Weisbrod

Absent Board member: Debra Hess

Staff:  
Roland Gieger, Budget Director, Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Howard Richman, Tax Collector

BOE:  
Peter Bernstein, Chairman, BOE Greenwich Public Schools; Ralph Mayo, Interim Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools; Daniel Watson, Director, School Facilities

RTM:  
Alexis Voulgaris, Moderator Pro Tempore, Representative Town Meeting

Other:  
Laurence Simon, Chairman, The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW) Board of Directors; Allen Brown, Executive Director; Tom Ellis, Director of Financial Operations; Jack Hornak, Director of Operations

Ms. Oberlander welcomed BET Members and attendees. She thanked BET members for their response to the request for a Special Meeting.

Requests for Interim Funding

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

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<tr>
<th>ED-6</th>
<th>BOE</th>
<th>Additional Appropriation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,905,000</td>
<td>Z68005 59560 19208</td>
<td>Cos Cob School Remediation</td>
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BET Special Meeting Minutes October 19, 2018 – Approved
Mr. Bernstein thanked the BET for responding on such short notice to the request by the Board of Education for an interim appropriation to remediate the water damage from a defective faucet which flooded several rooms in the Cos Cob Elementary School (CCS). He explained that students from the damaged classrooms were being accommodated in classrooms at Parkway Elementary School and Old Greenwich Elementary School, while repairs were being completed to CCS. Mr. Bernstein asked for funding for the repairs while awaiting reimbursement from the Town’s insurance carrier. Although the BOE had some funding on-hand, the BOE could begin only initial repairs because the BOE needed the interim appropriation to cover the cost of the completion of the remediation project. Mr. Bernstein explained that an insurance adjuster had already viewed the water damage at the site. In anticipation of an RTM Meeting to address the request for funds, Mr. Bernstein appeared before both the RTM’s Finance and Education Committees to explain the steps being taken by ServPro to remediate the water damage. Mr. Bernstein reported that the BOE had met and voted 7-0-0 to engage a contractor selected from the State’s list of preferred vendors to make the necessary repairs.

Ms. Moriarty described the BET Budget Committee’s discussion of the cause of the problem, the response and timetable of action for remediation. The Budget Committee reviewed the funding request in detail and voted 4-0-0 in favor of the request for $1,905,000.

The BET inquired about the process of selecting the contractor for the necessary reconstruction of the damaged areas in CCS and requested contract documentation of the price estimate. Based on the urgency of the situation and the need for the interim appropriation to be approved by RTM members at the upcoming RTM Meeting, the BET took up the request for an interim appropriation while awaiting the determination of the insurance carrier as to the reimbursement to be paid to the Town on this claim.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 11-0-0 to approve the interim allocation of $1,905,000 from the Town’s General Fund to remediate the water damage to Cos Cob Elementary School while awaiting insurance reimbursement. Motion carried.

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<tr>
<th>NW-1</th>
<th>Nathaniel Witherell</th>
<th>Additional Appropriation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>H450 59560 16213</td>
<td>Tower Renovation Project</td>
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Ms. Moriarty reported that the BET Budget Committee had reviewed the documentation of the Nathaniel Witherell’s Tower’s renovation project originally estimated to require $1.3 million funding after the completion of Project Renew. The Committee inquired about what future capital projects were projected and requested that future capital funding requests follow established Town budget procedures. The Budget Committee voted 3-0-1 in favor of the additional appropriation for the Tower renovation project.

Mr. Simon commented that during visits to RTM Finance and Health & Human Services Committee’s regular monthly meetings in preparation for the upcoming RTM meeting, the Finance Committee voted 7-5-0 and the Health & Human Service Committee voted 11-0-0 in favor of the interim appropriation.

BET members inquired how the original request for an interim appropriation had been reduced from $500,000 to $450,000 to which Mr. Hornak responded that cost reductions were identified through “value engineering.” Additionally, Mr. Brown explained that the State’s demand for modification of the renovation (based on a previous Hartford nursing home fire that caused 10
deaths due to smoke-inhalation), caused a delay and added to the expense of the Project.

The BET questioned the timing of the request as an interim and queried whether the project was to address safety concerns raised by the Inspector or to improve aesthetics. Mr. Brown assured the members that this additional cost was due to the Fire Inspector’s demands. The contractor was required now to take down and reinstall the ceiling each day to block potential smoke, resulting in several additional hours of work each day. Members discussed whether or not such funding should come from bonding and agreed that capital project bonding would be discussed at a later date.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Turner, the Board voted 8-1-2 (Opposed: Fassuliotis) (Abstained: Drake, Tarkington) in favor of the Nathaniel Witherell request for an interim appropriation of $450,000 to complete the Tower renovation project. Motion carried.

The BET Nathaniel Witherell Strategic Planning Committee would need to review future capital projects for the Nathaniel Witherell in light of the additional appropriation needed to complete the Tower renovation project which was not reflected in the original budget for the project.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Turner, the Board voted 11-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 A.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Clerk of the Board

Jill K. Oberlander, Chair