



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Stephen Walko called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag. Members observed a moment of silence in memory of Anthony Belmont.

Board members in attendance:

Stephen G. Walko, Chairman  
Robert S. Stone, Vice Chairman  
Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk  
Nancy E. Barton  
James S. Campbell  
William R. Finger  
William G. Kelly  
Edward T. Krumeich, Jr.  
Michael S. Mason  
Arthur D. Norton  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Laurence B. Simon

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Ted Gwartney, Assessor; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development; Al Monelli, Superintendent, DPW;

Other: Nancy Weissler, Chairman, Board of Education; David Ormsby, Chairman, Nathaniel Witherell; Mary Ferry, Fred Baker

**NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Budget Committee:**

**PUBLIC HEARING - CD-1 Community Development Block Grant, Entitlement Program, Proposed 2009 Annual One-Year Action Plan, Program Year 2009, 5<sup>th</sup> Increment to the 5-Year Consolidated Plan**

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason the Board voted to postpone action on CD-1 until 7:15 pm to allow for a Public Hearing, which began at 6:49 pm.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to close the Public Hearing session at 7:22 p.m.

CD-1 Community Development – Approval to Use - \$969,049.45

Approval to Use:  
\$969,049.45 to Q197-57500 CDBG 2009 Budget  
\$900,000 +/- HUD Entitlement  
\$ 38,728 Program Income (Repayment of Loans)  
\$ 30,331.45 Q19707 Reprogrammed Funds

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the process and an explanation for the modification to the request made by the First Selectman.

A discussion ensued concerning the Resolution by the Board of Estimate and Taxation in Passing upon the Report and the Recommendations of the Budget Committee for the 2009 (January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009) Budget Year including the words of the proposed last paragraph. The Resolution is attached as Exhibit A.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

**ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Budget Committee:**

HD-1 Health Department – Approval to Use - \$62,630.00

Approval to Use:  
\$53,673.60 to F4033-51010 Regular Salaries  
\$ 8,956.40 to F4033-57050 Social Security  
\$62,630.00 from Emergency Prep Grant

Mr. Mason stated that this request is for a routine release of grant funds for a Health Department position. However, the grant no longer fully covers the position. A second request, HD-2, an interim appropriation to cover the shortfall, was withdrawn at the Budget Committee meeting. This raised the question whether the Department would have the position, if it wasn't funded by a grant. Further discussion regarding this position, is anticipated in early spring.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

**ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Law Committee:**

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

Additional Appropriation:  
\$ 5,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Sorenson v. TOG  
\$ 5,000 from Risk Fund Balance

Ms. Barton stated that this is a personal injury case.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Barton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

### **ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Gwartney presented the Assessor's Report to the Board. In response to Mr. Walko, Mr. Gwartney stated that most of the litigation cases that get settled are minor differences of opinion. Mr. Gwartney provided an update of the public information system and agreed to schedule a presentation at a future meeting before the system goes online.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Gwartney stated that the number of "splits and mergers" processed are similar to last year and as well as the number of permits of issued. However, they will be tracking this more as time goes on and will be reported to the Board.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Assessor's Report, as amended.

### **BET COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS and SPECIAL PROJECT TEAMS' REPORTS**

*Glenville School Building Committee – Mr. Norton*  
*Ad Hoc OPEB Committee and OPEB Trust Board, July and Sept. 2008 – Mr. Stone*  
*Havemeyer/Old Town Hall Project Team - Mr. Stone, Ms. Barton*  
*Nathaniel Witherell Town Building Committee – Ms. Tarkington*  
*Human Resources Committee – Ms. Tarkington*  
*Audit Committee Meeting 9/11/08 – Mr. Norton*

In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Tesei reported the Perkins Eastman Study was completed. Mr. Tesei stated that it has been determined that the Havemeyer building is a suitable location for the senior program. Although the Commission on Aging pared down their needs, the program is best housed in a single location and not shared use. The senior program requirements and the Greenwich Center for the Arts proposal as currently presented are mutually exclusive. Currently the Board of Education has authority over the building. A discussion followed regarding use of the Havemeyer building.

Ms. Weissler gave an update on the Board of Education's space and location needs assessment, the results of which are expected in January. Mr. Stone stated that the Havemeyer/Old Town Hall Study Team intends to present an analysis of the studies to the Board in October or November.

Mr. Walko stated that he and Ms. Tarkington met with Mary Taylor, a former employee of the Town of Greenwich. A packet, including a cover letter and three letters, will be distributed to the Board members by the Finance Department concerning this matter.

### **COMPTROLLER'S REPORT**

Mr. Walko recognized the Finance Department its award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2007.

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller's report to the Board. A discussion followed regarding the AIG contract, the STIF fund, and reimbursements for remediation work on the Cos Cob Power Plant site.

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

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIODS OF AUGUST 1, 2008 – AUGUST 31, 2008**

Mr. Mynarski presented the Treasurer's report to the Board. In response to Mr. Finger, Mr. Mynarski stated that a comparison was done of tax receipts from 2007 and 2008 and shared the results with the Board. The Grand List increased by 5.16% and tax receipts increased by 1.8%. A discussion followed regarding the current financial environment.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's Report.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

BET Regular Meeting, July 21, 2008, and

BET Special Meeting, August 15, 2008

Upon a motion by Mr. Walko, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from July 21, 2008 and the Special Meeting Minutes of the BET from August 15, 2008.

BET Special Meeting, September 8, 2008

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the BET from September 8, 2008 as amended.

#### **OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Walko reported that the BOC plans to attend all BET meetings.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion of RTM Sense of the Meeting Resolution Regarding General Fund Borrowing

Mr. Monelli gave an overview of Capital projects, increases in construction costs, current trends, and the impact over the next 15 years.

Mr. Mynarski stated that there is a resolution from the RTM to the BET under consideration, which has three recommendations: maintain the annual mill rate increase in the 3 to 4% range over the next several years; limit borrowing for capital expenditures payable from taxes (including revenue bonds) to maturities not greater than five years in total, including bond anticipation notes issued to fund the project during construction; and not capitalize BAN interest for general obligation bonds. This resolution does not apply to borrowing which is outside the General Fund, such as Nathaniel Witherell and Sewers. Mr. Geiger provided spreadsheets showing four different scenarios. A discussion followed.

Mr. Walko stated that the RTM postponed a vote on the resolution to gain information from the BET. Mr. Walko will report to the RTM a sense of the Board from this meeting and will try to provide them with as much information as possible at their October meeting.

Discussion of BET Budget Guidelines – FY 2009-2010

Mr. Walko explained a change to the process, based on a recommendation from the Budget Committee to allow greater input. The Board will not vote on the guidelines tonight. The Budget Committee presented their guidelines at their last meeting and they will meet Monday, September 22 at 3:15 p.m. in the Gisborne Room for a workshop.

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the process. Mr. Walko stated that the detailed discussion concerning the guidelines should be held at the October Budget Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

  
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Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk of the Board

  
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Stephen G. Walko, Chairman

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION IN PASSING UPON THE REPORT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

FOR THE 2009 (January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009) BUDGET YEAR

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROPOSED BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE HISTORY FOR YEAR 2009**

*WHEREAS, the Policy of the Town of Greenwich requires that the Board of Estimate and Taxation shall annually make and file in the Office of the Town Clerk a Detailed Statement of the Appropriations, with its reasons for said Appropriations which it deems necessary to meet the expenses and to conduct the affairs of the Community Development Block Grant Program of the Town of Greenwich for the ensuing Fiscal Year, that is to say, for the Year January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 inclusive; and*

WHEREAS, the said Board has so filed in the Office of Town Clerk a Detailed Statement of such Appropriations contained in a document designated as the Community Development Block Grant Proposed Action Plan, January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 pages 3 through 6, pages 39 through 86 and pages 95 through 98, it will also forward a copy of this resolution indicating approval of the Community Development Block Grant Plan and Budget for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 by the Board of Estimate and Taxation; and

WHEREAS, the said Policy provides that the Board of Estimate and Taxation shall submit proposed Appropriations and make such Appropriations as may appear advisable, except that no Appropriations shall be made exceeding an amount for the same purpose recommended by the said Board; and

WHEREAS, said Community Development Block Grant Proposed Budget and Expenditure History – 2009 was forwarded to the members of the Representative Town Meeting on or about September 4, 2008 for action by the Representative Town Meeting at its Meeting to be held October 27<sup>th</sup> 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the recommendations of the Board of Estimate and Taxation as contained in the said Community Development Block Grant Proposed Budget and Expenditure History – 2009 filed, as stated, in the Office of the Town Clerk and submitted at the meeting of the Representative Town Meeting be and the same hereby are approved as the Appropriations for the ensuing Calendar Year 2009, except that the following items shall be increased, decreased, modified or omitted as follows:

*Appropriations Recommended*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Code Number</u>	<u>By Budget Committee</u>	<u>By Board</u>	<u>Increase (+) or Decrease (-)</u>	<u>Reason for Increase/Decrease</u>
<u>Total Increase (+)/Decrease (-).....</u>					

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appropriations of \$969,049.45 (+/-), set forth, are hereby approved, made and adopted for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2009 to December 2009, inclusive and conditioned on the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approval of the projected entitlement of approximately \$900,000 (+/-), reprogrammed funds of \$30,331.45 (PY2007) and the receipt of an annual incremental loan repayment of \$38,718,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the entitlement amount should be more than anticipated, the additional funds will be appropriated to a contingency line item, or if either the entitlement is less than the projected \$900,000 or the loan repayment is less than the \$38,718, the priority for funding, after the staff salaries, will be based on an equal percentage reduction of the activities listed in the "CDBG Proposals – First Selectman's Recommendation For Funding Year 2009"; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman, under the provisions of Title 8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 130, Part VI, Community Development and Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended (42 U.S.C. §5301 et seq.); the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. §3531 et seq.), be hereby authorized to accept grants for the purpose of carrying out an approved Community Development Block Grant Program for the Town of Greenwich; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Nathaniel Witherell and the Department of Community Development of the Town of Greenwich, for purposes set forth in this Budget is authorized to accept grants or funds made available through the Community Development Block Grant Fund.