



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 17, 2008 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Stephen Walko called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

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

Ex-Officio Board Members: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Lin Lavery, Selectman; Peter Crumbine, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Ted Gwartney, Assessor; Robert Shipman, Assistant Assessor

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Budget Committee:

PD-2 Police –Transfer - \$42,000

Transfer:			
\$42,000	to	F2139-59250	Creation of Fourth Dispatch Station
\$42,000	from	911 Grant Proceeds	

Mr. Mason stated that the Budget Committee received the requested clarification from the Fire Department concerning this item.

SS-1 Social Services – Transfer - \$50,000

Transfer:			
\$50,000	to	A501-57210	Contribution External Entity
\$11,000	from	A502-51010	Regular Salaries
\$39,000	from	A502-51300	Temporary Salaries

FI-1 Finance – Transfer - \$20,000

Transfer:
\$20,000 to A911-57500 Sewer Taxes
\$20,000 from A901-57940 Special Accounting

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

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS – from Law Committee:

SE-20 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation

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

SE-21 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation

Additional Appropriation:
\$10,000 to P935-57350 Settlement, Williams vs. HDS, Inc.
and TOG
\$10,000 from Risk Fund Balance

In response to Mr. Walko, Ms. Barton confirmed for the Law Committee that this is pursuant to the BET policy regarding settlement of matters that are below a monetary threshold. These settlements have been reviewed by the Law Committee, which unanimously endorsed the settlement amounts. Therefore the applications are before the BET without having gone to the Budget Committee.

Mr. Walko asked that settlements with regard to Nathaniel Witherell be provided to Nathaniel Witherell so that they are aware that these claims are being settled and can keep track of these amounts. Ms. Barton said that she would follow up with the Law Department. and make sure that the appropriate notifications are sent.

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

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gwartney presented the Assessor's report to the Board. The Board of Assessment Appeals has completed its work, and the Assessor's office is assisting the elderly in filing applications for the tax credit program.

In response to Mr. Norton, Mr. Gwartney explained that if the elderly had not filed with the State by April 1, under State Law they are then sent a reminder by certified letter. In response to Mr. Kelly, the office assists the elderly in filing by mailing them the information and assisting new applicants who come in to show proof of age.

In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Gwartney said they are seeking information from their software supplier regarding putting information on the website. In response to Mr. Walko, Mr. Gwartney said there is only one supplier. The contractor provides the service, and the Assessor can determine what is displayed on the website. Mr. Gwartney will solicit input from Ms. Tarkington and Mr. Simon before a contract is signed and prior to the April meeting,

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Assessor's Report.

BET COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Walko stated that the following committee reports were included in the board packets for review.

Glenville School Building Committee - Arthur Norton
Human Resources Committee - Leslie Tarkington
Audit Committee - Arthur Norton
Investment Advisory Committee - Arthur Norton
OPEB Ad Hoc and OPEB Trust Advisory Committee - Robert Stone

Hamilton Avenue Building Committee - Stephen Walko

Mr. Walko stated that there will be an update letter to the Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee that will respond to a series of questions asked by the project manager of the contractor. Mr. Walko will share that letter with the BET. The letter outlines the critical issues pertaining to the Hamilton Avenue School project. The contractor believes that it will substantially complete the building by June 1.

Mr. Campbell stated that he has been appointed the BET liaison to the Board of Education's Special Committee on Facilities, which was formed in response to the still developing situation of the Hamilton Avenue modular classrooms, with immediate focus on the issue of Glenville School and the options for where Glenville School students will be next year when the planned construction gets under way. The Committee will also look at the causes of the problem at the modular buildings and ultimately at the BOE's overall policy in planning for the ongoing maintenance of its facilities. The first meeting will be held March 18, 2008.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller's report to the Board. Mr. Mynarski pointed out that on March 7 the Town received the \$500,000 reimbursement from the State of Connecticut for the Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center and slightly under \$825,000 from the Law Department for the sale of the North Mianus Community Center.

Mr. Norton congratulated Mr. Mynarski on getting the money for the Bendheim WGCC. In response to Mr. Simon's request, Mr. Walko said that he would send a note of appreciation on behalf of the BET to Livvy Floren for her hard work to secure this reimbursement, and to advise her that the Town had received the money.

Mr. Walko stated that he and Mr. Finger had met with the Comptroller in March and plan to meet monthly to go over personnel issues, the workings of the department, and to help streamline some of the discussions pertaining to issues facing the Town and the Finance Department.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIODS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2008 - FEBRUARY 29, 2008

In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Mynarski said that the funds are sub-sets of money, each of which is subject to different restrictions, independent of each other. Mr. Simon said that it's important to understand within each of the groups what limitations are imposed by State Statutes on how to invest the money in order to make better decisions. Mr. Mynarski said that he will bring the issue before Mr. Norton and Mr. Finger to expand the investment policy. While most of the direction is covered in the resolution for cash management, there are differences between the General, Parking and Capital Reserve Funds.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Treasurer's Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Mr. Simon, the Board voted 12-0-0, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from February 19, 2008, with the addition of Peter Crumbine to the list of Ex-Officio Board members in attendance.

OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Walko stated that he had a productive meeting with Ms. Tarkington and members of the Nathaniel Witherell Board including their Chairman to discuss their building project and their operations, to assist the BET in next year's budget cycle to ensure that the Witherell business plan is a sound one. Also, he has had numerous conversations and meetings with several members of the BOE and thanked Nancy Weissler for dealing with the Hamilton Avenue and Glenville communities. The BET will be working with the BOE. Mr. Walko anticipates the BOE will come to the BET in April with their solutions.

Mr. Walko said that the BET will proceed with the budget as scheduled with the Public Hearing on March 18, followed by the Decision Meeting on March 19.

As indicated, Mr. Walko and Mr. Finger have met with the Comptroller. Mr. Walko has also met with the Assessor. Mr. Walko plans to continue these monthly meetings to address issues related to the Assessor's Department, as well as issues relating to the Town overall.

Mr. Walko requested Members to inform Finance of changes to the BET directory by the end of the week. A final copy will be printed and disbursed. Also, the special project teams are to report their charge and timeline before the April meeting.

Mr. Walko announced the Appointment of Mr. Kelly as BET Representative to the GHS Auditorium Building Committee and the Appointment of Mr. Simon as BET Representative to the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution concerning Cash Management and the authority to utilize certain Banks and other Financial Institutions.

Mr. Norton moved to postpone this resolution until the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

EFI, Inc. presentation of the Retirement Board and OPEB Board Actuary Reports for BET Approval.

In response to Mr. Walko, Mr. Mynarski said that he did not receive any questions regarding the Retirement Board Actuary Report and it was determined that Graham Schmidt's attendance was not needed at the BET meeting. Mr. Simon commented that the funding this year is \$6.6 million. is up slightly from last year, and during Mr. Schmidt's report to the Retirement Board he thought that this number would be relatively stable over the next few years. The Town still remains over funded in terms of its actuarial liabilities exceed its actuarial assets as required by the charter and it has a fully funded retirement plan.

In response to Mr. Walko, Mr. Mynarski confirmed that the OPEB Board Actuary Report has not yet been received. Mr. Mynarski said among the reasons for not producing the report, Graham maintains that this is the toughest report he has ever done. At the direction of the OPEB Ad-Hoc Committee and the OPEB Board, Mr. Mynarski stressed that Mr. Schmidt's firm work with him to design a process, with a checklist, of what information he needs and where it's to come from.

Mr. Simon stated that the BET should get it in March, have a chance to review it, and have a discussion and acceptance at the April meeting. Mr. Mynarski said that the RFP for the actuary for the OPEB fund and the Retirement fund is going out within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Stone said that Mr. Schmidt is on notice that the two reports can be separated and he may lose one or both of these assignments going forward. Mr. Walko said that Mr. Schmidt should be present at either the April Budget Committee or BET meeting to go over the OPEB report.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Ramer the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the July 1, 2007 Actuarial Evaluation Report on The Retirement System of the Town of Greenwich.

Discussion/Resolution concerning Town-wide Building Maintenance Programs.

Mr. Stone read the proposed resolution. Mr. Stone then said that the Audit Committee will be scheduling a Special Meeting, inviting representatives of Town departments charged with the

responsibility over buildings, to look more deeply into this matter. He suggested withdrawing the resolution until a report is given at the April meeting. Mr. Campbell agreed.

Mr. Norton said that the Audit Committee will schedule a Special Meeting, on April, 8, 2008 to consider this item. It will invite representatives from the TOG Building Construction and Maintenance Office, Nathaniel Witherell, and the BOE.

Mr. Walko said that the BET needs to look at the manner with which resolutions come before the full Board.


ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Remer the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Leslie L. Tarkington, Clerk of the Board



Stephen G. Walko, Chairman