The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

LAW-1 Law Department – Release of Condition - $600,000

Release of Condition:
$ 600,000   to    A140-51400   Prof. & Other Spec. Services Attorneys Fees

Mr. Mason gave an explanation for the condition. Mr. Fox gave an overview of the types of cases that have required the hiring of outside counsel and/or special services.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Fox explained that the Lessons Learned process is now handled by the Law Committee. The Law Department and Law Committee meet in a regular basis to review cases. When the system has not functioned as it should, the problem is identified and addressed, in order to avoid the same problem in the future.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

HD-4 Health Department – Approval to Use - $73,674.88

Approval to Use:
$ 17,500 to F403-51490 Prof. Services NOC
$ 10,000 to F403-52010 Publicity
$ 10,000 to F403-52020 Printing
$11,361.88 to F403-52150 Office Services
$ 17,013 to F403-53010 Office Supplies
$ 200 to F403-53160 Film & Video
$ 7,600 to F403-53250 Medical, Surgical, Lab Supplies

$73,674.88 from Public Act funds - Grant

Ms. Baisley stated that the funds have been received and gave an overview of the planned use for the funds. This Grant is renewable yearly and is to be used for Public Health only.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

Discussion of Social Services Benchmark Model EVOLV-CS Software Update and Homemaker Services

Dr. Anyikwa presented a comparison study Social Services and Homemaker Services of ten towns with similar demographics in Connecticut. Of those towns surveyed, Greenwich is above the others in services provided and the number of people served. A discussion followed. Mr. Mason asked Dr. Anyikwa to distribute the presented information to the BET.

Seniors and Citizens with Disabilities Tax Relief Ordinance

Mr. Tesei and Mr. McLaughlin presented an amended senior and disabled tax relief ordinance Sec. 12-6.1. Mr. Tesei gave an overview of the process, the findings and an explanation for the proposed changes. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the language of the ordinance, possible changes made by the RTM, the administrative burden, and total impact of the ordinance. To deal with an issue that received considerable attention, the possibility that the RTM could ignore the $1,000,000 amount targeted, Mr. Stone suggested that the maximum program cost, proposed to be set at 1% of real property taxes, be reduced to ½%, which would place the ceiling at roughly $1.3 million.

Mr. McLaughlin agreed to work on the language in Section 4. Mr. Mason suggested the Budget Committee meet again, prior to the BET meeting, concerning this Ordinance.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, the Committee voted 3-1-0 (Mr. Krumeich against), to approve changing the language in Section 1 to read, (4) who is under age sixty-five and eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Simon, the Committee voted 3-1-0 (Mr. Krumeich against), to ask the Town Attorney to draft a new section 4 to incorporate the following changes:

a. Change the maximum benefit to one-half of one percent of real property taxes (reduced from one percent).

b. Include a minimum amount of $570,000 for this benefit (since modified to be the lesser of all approved applications or $570,000).
Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation Budget Committee
November 12, 2008- DRAFT 2 Subject to Approval

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Subject to Approval

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman

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November 12, 2008- DRAFT 2 Subject to Approval