1. BET Dept. Reviews Day 2 Documents

Documents:

SUB_TO_APP_CAPITAL_BUDGET_HEARINGS_DAY_02-01-18.PDF
APPROVED_BET_DEPT_HEARINGS_DAY_2_02-01-18.PDF
Ms. Moriarty called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. She welcomed the audience and began the Hearing.

**SPEAKERS**

Mr. Branyan introduced the Town’s FY2018-2019 Budget designed to provide cost-effective municipal services that support the interests of public education, essential services and quality of life for residents, while responding to Guidelines suggested by both the BET and RTM Budget Overview Committee. Mr. Branyan began with a review of the Open Appropriations Available Budget from prior budgets, which is $58.3 million for the Town and $45.2 million for Schools. Of the Town’s portion, he indicated that $18.6 million is in the construction or retainage stage, $7.7 million is waiting for finalization of an agreement with the State (MMA) covering projects eligible for reimbursement, and an additional $13.9 million will be completed by year-end 2018. Open sewer projects total $4.6 million so the proposed budget for FY19 has been reduced to reflect the backlog of work. In a further discussion about the MMA agreement with the State, Mr. Branyan indicated the issue is the indemnification language that the State is requiring but that the Town can’t provide per the Charter. This issue is being worked on by the Law Department and they hope to have a solution soon.

Mr. Branyan then provided a context for reviewing the proposed $48.2 million Capital Plan, showing the breakdown among General Government, Infrastructure, Transportation/Traffic...
Projects, Water/Land Resources and Schools. For the Town projects, he noted the FY19 15-year plan is similar to FY18 with some additional project definition that result in modifications of the projected year of spending for certain projects. He also noted that the information for the out-years is less accurate and shows a relative decline in spending which will probably not occur. He noted the Schools are working on a revised 15-year master plan which will impact the long term capital plan however, that information is not yet available.

Ms. Moriarty confirmed that the decline in capital costs over the 15-years was due to lack of knowledge of specific projects that would be needed. Mr. Ramer asked if the debt levels reflect when capital costs funds are expended rather than when they are appropriated. Mr. Gieger responded that that information is reflected by using the typical pattern for project capital of year 1 = project start spending half of appropriation; year 2 = project completion spending rest of funds; year 3 = completed with actual cost known and bonds issued. He also indicated that the amount of actual debt reflects the actual cash needs even if they deviate from the expectation. Ms. Moriarty thanked Mr. Brayan for added context inserting criteria of general government, community infrastructure, traffic, water and land to the overview of the 15-Year Capital Plan.

**FY 2018-2019 Budget OFS Initiatives** – Mr. Tesei defined his initiatives as keeping his commitment to maintain the character of the Town of Greenwich and strengthening it as a premier place to live, work and raise a family. Some key projects, both operating and capital, are:

- Evaluation Study of the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink
- Dredging of the Greenwich Point Harbor
- Feasibility Study of installation of natural grass on Middle School Playing Fields
- Refurbishment of GHS artificial turf on Fields 6 and 7
- Continuation of Lean Six Sigma Professional Development Training
- Support for *Think Greenwich* – economic development marketing project
- Support for YWCA Domestic Abuse Prevention Education Programming in Public Schools

**Fire Department** – Chief Siecienski explained that the 10-year useful life of fire equipment and firefighting clothing was the reason for his Capital Budget requests, some of which are mandated by Union collective bargaining. Mr. Ramer expressed his concerns about funding the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Station expense item saying that TOG needed a measure of control over the development project because the property currently did not belong to the Town. He suggested that the agreement for the funds should be conditioned for release based on the structuring of the Agreement similar to TOG’s Agreement with the Banksville Volunteer Fire Department’s contract and should include a due diligence report. The Chief explained the pricing on the request for a new pumper vehicle and how its specifications were customized to Greenwich’s needs. An SUV was also requested which would be processed through the Fleet Department.

**Police Department** – Chief Heavey requested the replacement of 12 Taser guns at the end of their useful life which were purchased through a grant, and 2 license-plate readers. In questioning the brand, size, strength and longevity of the Department’s SUVs, the Committee learned that the Department owned 66 vehicles in all, 24 marked cars, 16 unmarked cars and 26 other vehicles; the new SUV being requested would be a replacement, not an additional vehicle. They also own 7 motorcycles.

**Fleet Department** – Mr. Domeseck updated the Budget Committee on his policy of evaluating the use and need of all Town vehicles. He reduced the size of the fleet with repurposing cars that weren’t justified by use with a department. He gave the example of removing 2 Health Department
and 1 Parking Service vehicles and returning them to the general TOG inventory. He explained DPW’s need for special trackless vehicles outfitted with cameras for monitoring sewer infrastructure and how vehicle ownership was preferred due to emergency response time or suitability for the diameter of many of Greenwich’s sewer lines.

**IT Department** - Mr. Klein described the IT Department current activities and Ms. Moriarty asked if the Department was able to address and complete its projects as quickly as planned. Mr. Klein indicated that some projects were scheduled to be outsourced whereas others were being handled internally. He offered the example of the development of TOG’s website to demonstrate the complexity of issues and considerations that needed to be integrated. Ms. Moriarty asked about open appropriations and suggested that Mr. Klein work with Mr. Gieger to prepare a list of encumbrances and a schedule for their close-out; additionally, she requested a timetable for the utilization of FY19 capital requests to be discussed during the Operations Hearing Day on February 7. Ms. Hess asked if opportunities for the integration of Library and/or BOE IT systems with TOG’s could be explored in the future.

**Department of Public Works** – Ms. Siebert and Mr. Michel explained the open appropriations. She noted some projects are being held open with retainage amounts awaiting final resolution of contracts; some are awaiting resolution of the State reimbursement piece; some projects are being held up by the unresolved MMA agreements described by Mr. Branyan. The projects tied up with the MMA agreement total $23 million of funding of which $18 million would be reimbursed by State or federal dollars, depending on the program or grant. Ms. Siebert responded to a question by Ms. Tarkington about the retainage for projects, to which she replied that most have 5% retainage that drops to 2% at substantial completion.

Ms. Moriarty asked about progress on the Greenwich Avenue Streetscape project to which Ms. Siebert responded a consultant, Malone & McBroom had been selected and that a public forum was being arranged to elicit feedback so that costing and options could be prepared. Ms. Moriarty asked how Stormwater Management projects are prioritized. Ms. Siebert responded that projects are identified based on identified immediate need, input from the Erosion and Control Board, Police and Fire departments, projects that are part of other infrastructure repairs and resident request. Mr. Turner asked Ms. Siebert to rank the range of comments and complaints and typically received by the Department. Mr. Duus asked what percentage of the DPW budget was dedicated to compliance or regulatory unfunded mandates or if the availability of State and Federal funds drove the selection of potential projects. Ms. Siebert responded verbally with a list of prioritized projects ranging from sewer maintenance and improvements to Traffic Signal Maintenance. Mr. Mason noted the Department’s request that TOG acquire brine-making apparatus and how quickly savings would amortize its cost. Mr. Roberto was asked about the ideal amount of funding that should be dedicated to paving in the FY19 budget and whether the cost included police overtime, traffic control, milling, and Overtime labor costs for work being done overnight. He responded that the PCI of the Town is 80 on its 212 miles of roadway, that he could address more needs if the funding level was higher but that $4 million has been funded in the current year up from $3 million in the previous years. Ms. Fassuliotis asked for a model of the paving costs and Mr. Ramer asked for a printout of the most recent Paving Condition Index.

**Parks & Recreation Department** - Mr. Siciliano described his department’s Open Appropriations as 9 of the 37 projects pending DEEP approval and permits. Ms. Moriarty asked that the list of all projects be forwarded to the Budget Committee and Ms. Tarkington specifically asked for documentation of encumbered joint Parks & Rec/school projects dating from 2012 that were still not closed-out. Mr. Siciliano gave an example of the Greenwich Point Causeway Seawall design awaiting DEEP approval.
One new project is the Skating Rink facility assessment. In response to Ms. Moriarty’s question as to how the scope would be determined, he replied that the planning process would include a community forum planned before the design would commence. He described the other proposed projects, including for the school organic turf replacement program, Playground Inspection, Tennis Court maintenance, repair of one of 3 Island Beach ferry boats with a replacement ferry being placed in the out-years, Byram Cove dredging and an update on the financial status of Greenwich’s public golf course. In response to a question about the maintenance of the fields, he indicated that his department has 8 fewer park gardeners than in 2008, but he believes the department is adequately maintaining the school properties.

**Department of Public Works** – (continued) Mr. Michel indicated that the request for planning funds to improve the intersection at Brookside Drive/Glenville Road was needed to begin the study and have information with which to hold discussions with neighbors. He indicated that, under current programs, the Town pays for the design with the State covering 100% of the construction cost.

Mr. Monelli commented on construction estimates for the Byram Fire Station renovation project. Ms. Tarkington requested a schematic of the planned upgrading to the facility given the increase of the cost estimate from $3 million to $4 million before construction bids and MI approval were sought. Other projects discussed included renovations of areas of Town Hall and Senior Center renovations. Mr. Monelli was asked to clarify the public/private expectations for the Senior Center projects.

Mr. Feminella commented on open appropriations for Wastewater Management. Ms. Tarkington brought up and the Budget Committee discussed whether future taxing policy should be changed to be based on usage rather than the current policy of taxing based on assessed property values, which may not reflect the more intense use of the system by exempt nonprofits and private schools, and commercial office buildings and restaurants.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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