1. BET Budget Comm. Public Hearing & Presentation Documents

Documents:

SUB_TO_APP_BUDGET_COMM_PUBLIC_HEARING_MINUTES_02-03-15.PDF
APPROVED_BET_BUDGET_COMM_PUBLIC_HEARING_MINUTES_02-03-15.PDF
TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room
Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Committee: Marc V. Johnson, Chairman; Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: John Blankley, William Drake, William Finger, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Michael Mason, Art Norton, Nancy Weissler

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo, Selectman; John Toner, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Michael Rosen, Administrative Manager, Selectmen’s Office; John Crary Town Administrator; Melissa Jones, Senior Management Analyst, Selectmen’s Office; Dr. William McKersie, BOE Superintendent of Schools; Ben Branyan, BOE Managing Director of Operations; Mary Forde, BOE Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Katie DeLuca, Director Planning & Zoning; Amy Siebert, Public Works Commissioner, Public Works; Joseph Siciliano, Director of Parks & Recreation; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department, Robert Kick, Ass’t Chief, Fire Department; Thomas Klein, Director, Information Technology Department; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector

Other: Barbara O’Neill, Chairman, Board of Education; Peter Von Braun, Member, BOE; Steve Warzoha, RTM; Lucia Jansen, RTM Budget Overview Committee

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

The Meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M., after which members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Johnson welcomed the audience to the first of a series of meetings that would be taking place concerning the Town of Greenwich FY2015-2016 Budget. He invited attendance during the scheduled eight (8) days of hearings to better understand the decision-making process required to develop a plan for the upcoming year’s capital and operating expenditures. He reminded the audience that tonight was a public hearing and that there would be an opportunity for comments at the conclusion of presentations by the First Selectman, Peter Tesei, and the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William McKersie. Mr. Mynarski would be collecting public comment requests.

PROPOSED BUDGET FY2015-2016

First Selectman Tesei presented the Town’s proposed FY2015-2016 Budget. He acknowledged the contribution of Department heads, Appointing Authorities and recognized Mr. Crary for his support in the preparation process. He introduced a budget that reflected a 2.89% mill rate increase to maintain the quality of life, safety and educational excellence Greenwich residents have come to enjoy.

Ms. Barbara O’Neill, Chairman of the Board of Education made introductory comments on BOE’s proposed 2015-2016 Budget for Greenwich schools noting that it would be serving approximately 9,000 students within the recommended 2% overall increase in costs, without a
staffing increase and despite increased enrollments. She asked Dr. McKersie to provide more details of how BOE’s budget supported accelerating achievement.

Dr. McKersie spoke of his plan for STEM programming and magnet schools with appropriate transportation linkage. Additionally, he described Greenwich as a high achieving school district successfully dealing with the challenges of serving a growing number of students with family income below the federal poverty level.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Johnson encouraged members of the public to comment during the Public Hearing session and opened the floor to the public at 6:50 P.M.

The following speakers addressed the Committee:

- Harry Fisher, former member of the BET – With concern that many wanted to take on too much long-term debt and burden future generations of Greenwich residents.
- Cathy Youngman, President, Junior League of Greenwich – In support of the Byram Pool and Park Project
- Eric Brower, Vice-Chair, Conservation Commission – In support of additional staffing for the Conservation Commission
- Michael Trognee, PTA Council – In support of approval of the BOE Budget
- Vince DiMarco, Pemberwick-Glenville Association – In support of easing access to the Pemberwick-Glenville Park for all who would like to use it
- Peter Alexander, Byram River Park System – In support of upgrading the quality of all parks in the Pemberwick – Glenville area
- Allen Williams, Northwest Greenwich Association – In support of a Northwest Greenwich area firehouse
- Eric Maurer, Citizen – In support of BOE Budget and funding a new New Lebanon School
- Diego Sanchez, Citizen – In support of BOE Budget and funding a new New Lebanon School
- Claire Kilgallen, Citizen – In support of BOE Budget and funding a new New Lebanon School
- Matt Partridge, Citizen – In support of BOE Budget and funding a new New Lebanon School
- Dan Griffin, Citizen – In support of Pemberwick Park and sidewalk
- Langdon Gross-Cohen, First Selectman’s Youth Commission – In support of Jennifer Byxbee
- Alex Schnur, First Selectman’s Youth Commission – In support of Jennifer Byxbee
- Peter Negrea, First Selectman’s Youth Commission – In support of Jennifer Byxbee
- Diane Roth, RTM Member - In support of Pemberwick Park and sidewalk
- Rick Margenot, Citizen – In support of a more efficient organization of Wetlands and Land Use Planning Commissions
- Don Conway, RTM Member – In support of Bryam Pool and new New Lebanon School Building

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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