1. BET Budget Comm. Dept. Reviews Day 5 Documents

   Documents:

   SUB_TO_APP_BET_BUDGET_COMM_DEPT_REVIEWS_DAY_5_02-17-16.PDF
   APPROVED_BET_BUDGET_COMM_DEPT_REVIEWS_DAY_5_02-17-16.PDF
Mr. Lash called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

**SPEAKERS**

**Greenwich Emergency Medical Service**

Ms. Tufts provided an overview of GEMS services and described how it interacts with Police and Fire Departments and Greenwich Hospital. She also emphasized that the community outreach program provided by GEMS included safety lectures and demonstrations at more than 230 school, social group and events annually.
Operations - Ms. Tufts requested a budget increase of 2.2% for the department’s FY17. She commented that while expenses were consistent, there had been an increase in service demand. She noted that GEMS had recently changed health care benefit vendors as well as experienced a .6% increase in retirement costs. Additionally, a part-time fundraiser had been hired and fundraising software had been purchased to accelerate donation solicitations for a future fully-equipped ambulance estimated to cost $365,000. It was noted that GEMS currently owns 7 ambulances located at 4 stations around Greenwich. Each ambulance drives approximately 20,000 to 30,000 miles per year and idles additional time (equivalent to 23 miles per hour).

Revenue - EMT Training is growing as a source of revenue. Filing for a State rate increase takes place annually

Capital - GEMS made a request for a new headquarters station-facility as well as an opportunity to relocate its administrative and training facility within the next 24 months, hopefully to a town facility, to reduce overhead cost. Mr. Lash noted the original plan to co-locate GEMS in the Public Safety complex and asked that they look at that option before returning to the BET during the next budget cycle. GEMS requires a permanent location in northwest Greenwich, also.

Department of Public Works

Public Safety Space - Mr. Monelli reported that the new Central Fire House was 70% complete with a Fall occupancy anticipated. When the Central Fire apparatus returns to the main facility, the temporary Horseneck facility will become the temporary home to the Byram fire apparatus while the Byram Fire Station is refurbished. Features of the 1327 King Street site adjacent to the Town’s public golf course were reviewed to evaluate the location for a combined GEMS and fire station for Northwest Greenwich. Costs of location, the potential need for its reconfiguration, septic system and east/west traffic accessibility were discussed. Mr. Lash asked for a simplified cost analysis and building schedule comparison of a stand-alone fire station at 1327 King Street and at an alternative location combining GEMS and Fire, as well as the all-in costs of utilizing the Round Hill site.

The Budget Committee asked for additional information to consider the NW Fire Station question. It requested the manpower and equipment plan for the Central Fire House, the Horseneck facility during the Byram rehabilitation and Sound Beach facility upgrades; additionally it requested a review of how GEMS could be relocated into the Public Safety Complex.

Chief Siecienski and Ass’t Fire Chief Kick were asked for additional operational statistics concerning the deployment and contribution of volunteers considering the number of calls which turned out to be false alarms. The Committee discussed travel time to fire sites and the arrival of the second engine to evaluate if 24/7 coverage could be planned differently when new staffing was implemented and whether there would be a need to continue to dispatch dual response.

Operations - Ms. Seibert and Mr. Monelli were asked what had changed in the department, as there had been a 1.4% increase in operating expenses while presenting no offset for the additional custodian requested. This Department is budgeted within the Parking Fund, which by FY17 year end will deplete its fund balance.
Capital - The Committee asked, if additional funds were allocated, whether DPW could execute the new projects given the number of current projects with balances that had not been closed out. Ms. Seibert enumerated the number of large projects that had been completed in FY16 and attributed land use permitting, contract approvals and change orders to impeded progress. Ms. Kiernan noted the challenge of working with partners such as the ACOE or state regulatory agencies on many of these projects. Individual projects such as the Storm Water Master Plan for Byram, the on-going traffic signal program and fiber optic cable updating were underway. The increase of 25% in FY17 for vehicles was discussed; investment in the risk management aspect of consistent public and private school speed zone signage was considered; and, the question of lower oil price savings possibly offsetting additional paving was discussed.

The allocation of funds for a survey and feasibility study preceding the Greenwich Avenue Streetscape project was considered important even if the total $10 million project was not undertaken immediately. The Department summarized their top ten Drainage Master Plan projects. Justification for the Steamboat Road Pier and the Strickland Brook Culvert Bridge were considered. The Committee asked for additional information about remediation of GHS soil, the Cardinal Stadium Field turf and BOE Parking Lot renewal. Ms. Seibert provided an in depth explanation of the facets of the Holly Hill project; Mr. Porter, an RTM member, encouraged the Committee to act favorably on an allocation for this project. Mr. Shubert spoke in favor of the Committee ensuring that a broad representation of users of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center be included in the planning phase of the proposed new building.

Sewer Maintenance - Mr. Feminella acknowledged that there was a 20% increase in funds requested for Sewer Maintenance and went over the open projects with the Committee. Members of the Committee expressed reservations about taxing residents before sewer projects were begun and suggested that further discussion was needed to evaluate whether some projects shouldn’t be funded by all residents through the Sewer Improvement Fund, rather than just property owners in the sewer district.

Information Technology – Mr. Klein indicated that his department was still seeking to fill the Tech Solutions position authorized in the previous fiscal year. He noted that with the departure of the Purchasing Director, the IT department had inherited the installation of the Town’s new telephone system. Mr. Klein’s priorities include increasing efficiencies throughout the Town’s communication systems including email and networking.

Operations - Supporting the Town’s Emergency Function, the IT Department was pursuing a cellular data service installation to broaden emergency capabilities. Mr. Klein anticipated reducing consumer lines for permitting in the Building Department, Health, P&Z, and Wetlands offices through customization of the Citi View software program to include the Building Department. Currently CitiView is being used in the Land Use and Health Departments.

Capital - Mr. Klein suggested that cyber security was becoming increasingly important but the Committee indicated their preference for focusing on Access Greenwich, the Town 311 System, and accelerating online permitting of P&Z and DPW processes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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James A. Lash, Chairman

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
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