1. BET Budget Comm. Dept. Review Day 2 Documents

Documents:

APPROVED_BET_BUDGET_COMM_DEPT_REVIEW_DAY_TWO_02-19-10.PDF
SUB_TO_APP_BET_BUDGET_COMM_DEPT_REVIEW_DAY_TWO_02-19-10.PDF
Present:
Committee:  Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington
Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Alison Graham, Employee Benefits Manager; David Ormsby and Lloyd Bankson, Nathaniel Witherell Board; Allen Brown, Executive Director Nathaniel Witherell; Ray Augustine, Director of Financial Services, TNW, Maureen Kast, Human Resources Director, David Ridberg, Chief of Police, Lt. Mark Kordick, Police Lieutenant, Greg Hannigan, Police Director of General Services, Adina Goldstein, Acting Commissioner, Department of Social Services, Bob LaMarche, Social Services Budget and Systems Supervisor, Kimberly Terrenoire, Chairman, Board of Social Services, Carol Mahoney, Greenwich Library Executive Director, Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, Deputy Director, Greenwich Library, Genny Krob, RTM, Steve Warzoha, RTM, Peter Tesei, First Selectman, Gail Fanning, Police Department, Sam Deibler, Senior Center, Laurette Helmrich, Senior Center
Board: Steve Walko, Randall Huffman, Art Norton, Joseph Pellegrino, Jeff Ramer

Mr. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

SPEAKERS

1. Social Services – Ms. Kimberley Terrenoire and Ms. Adina Goldstein represented the Social Services Department and reported as follows:

- External Entities – Mr. Mason asked Social Services officials how they pick agencies to be funded. Ms. Terrenoire and Ms. Goldstein stated that various agencies approach them and usually request amounts that are much larger than the amounts approved. Ms. Terrenoire stated that they try to keep the total budget amount requests constant and adjust the requests accordingly to keep the bottom line unchanged. Ms. Terrenoire and Ms. Goldstein stated
that they are very much aware of the economic conditions and the demands on the Town’s budget needs.

- **Table of Organization** – Ms. Goldstein stated that two full time Homemakers positions were eliminated and two part-time Homemaker positions were added with one Budget and Systems Supervisory position going from part-time to full time. Ms. Terrenoire added that the Board is evaluating the filling of the Deputy Commissioner positions vacated by Ms. Goldstein’s interim promotion.

Mr. Simon questioned the adequacy of the EVOLV software system as laid out in the responses provided by Social Services officials. Mr. Simon suggested that Social Services personnel should contact Information Technology personnel and communicate to them their concerns about the EVOLV system and specifically the reporting requirements.

- **Impact on Services** – Ms. Goldstein reported that the Social Services Department is structurally sound and in a good position. However, Ms. Goldstein also reported that continuing hard economic times is affecting the needs of Greenwich families. Ms. Goldstein opined that more people are out of work and are more dependent on the Social Services Department. However, Ms. Goldstein stated the department is holding up under these stressful times.

Mr. Finger asked if the Department could have additional resources, what would you ask for? Ms. Goldstein answered she would want one more Caseworker for each working team.

2. **Nathaniel Witherell** – The Nathaniel Witherell team was represented by Mssrs. Allen Brown, Lloyd Bankson, David Ormsby and Ray Augustine.

- **Policy of Surpluses and Deficits** – Although the Nathaniel Witherell operation was well represented most of the discussion and answers were provided by Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Gieger. The discussions centered on the process on how to handle potential revenue and/or expenditure shortfalls creating deficits. Mr. Mynarski and Gieger stated that the process would be similar to the existing process whereas Nathaniel Witherell would have to request additional appropriations if they would need to increase their appropriations. Mr. Simon asked how revenue shortfalls would be handled. Mr. Gieger responded that revenue shortfalls would need to be addressed in the subsequent or next year’s budget accordingly.

3. **Healthcare** – The Healthcare budget was presented by Ms. Alison Graham and Ms. Maureen Kast.
• **Status of Healthcare Contracts** – Ms. Graham and Ms. Kast reported to the BET Budget Committee that the news was not good for the healthcare budget for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, they reported that the negotiation to lower the proposed rates was not going well. Ms. Graham told the Committee that she expects a final offer from Anthem by the middle of next week. As of now, the blended rate increase between the Town and Board of Education looks to be about 22%. It was reported that the increase is being driven by the increased profit margin Anthem is trying to obtain. In addition, Healthnet was purchased and will not be our other vendor past June 30, 2010.

Mr. Simon presented to the Committee and all in attendance what he felt was the best option being to go to a self-insured plan, effective January 1, 2011. There was an extended discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of going to a self-insured plan and a number of references to past Town history under a previous self-insured scenario. It was determined to wait until Ms. Graham reports back with Anthem’s final offers for rate increases before inserting a budgetary figure.

• **Amount to Budget for Healthcare** – There was no amount proposed for the budget. The two current options are: to wait for final proposals from Anthem and go to a self-insured plan if the proposed increases are too high.

4. **Police** – The Police Department budget was presented by Chief David Ridberg, Lieutenant Mark Kordick and Mr. Greg Hannigan.

• **Captains** – Chief Ridberg led the discussions on changes to the table of organization. He informed the Committee that initially the table of organization would have one Chief and four Captains, although he strongly supported four Majors instead of Captains.

When asked about the plan to go to four Captains, Mr. Tesei said he supported the plan to hire the four Captains by April 1, 2010 and have them in place for one year, until April 1, 2011. He and the Chief would then evaluate the possibility of changing the table of organization after a one year review and evaluation.

• **Staffing and Schedules** – Chief Ridberg stated that the current police scheduling was unbalanced and can’t be fixed because it is tied to the current, existing Police contract.

Mr. Mason asked Chief Ridberg what he was doing to control overtime. Chief Ridberg and Lt. Kordick resorted to their prepared power point presentation and showed how the 200, 300 and 400 major object codes were being depleted. Chief Ridberg then proceeded to answer Mr. Mason’s question by
showing the Committee all of the factors that drive overtime such as: sick/injury leave, mandated training, special events, etc.

Mr. Finger asked Chief Ridberg about the removal of the one police officer on Greenwich Avenue and the Chief showed the Committee a power point slide showing the savings of $411,167 from removing one patrol car on the night shift.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:30 P.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

5. Library – Ms. Carol Mahoney and Ms. Barbara Ormerod-Glynn represented the Greenwich Library in discussing the Peterson Fund agreement.

- Peterson Wing Financing & Agreement – Ms. Mahoney and Ms. Ormerod-Glynn appeared before the BET Budget Committee to discuss the Peterson Trust Agreement. Ms. Mahoney handed out materials that showed Peterson Fund shortfalls to the Town of $116K for FY11, and projected to be $197K for FY12 and $400K for FY13. Mr. Simon requested that these numbers be substantiated with backup spreadsheets detailing how the figures were arrived at. Ms. Mahoney stated she would provide the materials.

As part of the discussions, it was noted that 1.5 positions were being transferred out of the Peterson Fund(Department 702) to the Greenwich Library budget(Department 701). An extended discussion ensued about the legality of doing such. Mr. Gieger noted that Mr. Eugene McLaughlin opined that if the BET altered the funding request, the Peterson Trust Agreement would no longer be binding. The Committee decided to request Mr. McLaughlin’s presence at next week’s budget meeting.

6. Senior Center – The Senior Center was represented by Mr. Sam Deibler and Ms. Laurette Helmrich.

- Table of Organization and Table of Organization – The BET Budget Committee reviewed the changes to the table of organization with Mr. Deibler and Ms. Helmrich.

There were discussions about the food outsourcing vendor, the need for in-house food preparation and cooking staff and the food sharing arrangements with Nathaniel Witherell.

7. Fixed Charges

- Social Security, Unemployment and Police Benefit Fund – The BET Budget Committee went over a small number of fixed charges with Mr.
Mynarski and Mr. Gieger. It was decided to leave the Social Security budget request as is, and increase the Unemployment figure and decrease the Police Benefit Fund figure. The Committee decided to take up these and other matters during BET Budget Decision Day next week.

8. **General Issues** – The only general issue of substance that was discussed dealt with resolutions. There was a brief discussion on resolutions and it was noted that there would be very few changes this year and the matter would be discussed on Decision Day next week.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

[Signature]
Michael S. Mason, Chairman
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Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman