1. BET Budget Comm. Decision Day Documents

Documents:

SUB_TO_APP_BUDGET_COMM_DECISION_DAY_02-23-17.PDF
APPROVED_BET_BUDGET_COMM_DECISION_DAY_02-23-17.PDF
Mr. Lash called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M.

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Ms. Tarkington motioned to adopt the First Selectman’s Budget as proposed subject to amendments as follows, seconded by Mr. Ramer. Approved 4-0

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After accepting the above changes, the proposed Total Operating Budget is $412,830,748.

**CAPITAL BUDGET**

**105 General Government - Fire Services Study 105-973** - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase the appropriation for the Fire Services Study by $30,000, from $70,000 to $100,000. The reason is to assure there are sufficient funds to have a qualified firm perform the comprehensive study being proposed. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend to delete the appropriation for the Fire Services Study. Mr. Lash seconded the motion. The Committee voted 1-3. (Opposed: Lash, Moriarty, Ramer). Motion failed.

On the original motion, the Committee voted 3-1-0. (Opposed: Tarkington) Ms. Moriarty indicated she will consider proposing a condition of release upon review and approval of the scope and deliverables included in the RFP.

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Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Annual Paving Program to decrease to $3,000,000. No second.

On the original motion, the Committee voted 3-1-0 (Opposed: Tarkington)

**312 Public Works - Pemberwick Park/Road Sidewalk 312-960** - Mr. Lash motioned to amend the Budget to delete the Pemberwick Park/Road Sidewalk ($75,000). Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

Ms. Moriarty requested DPW propose a revised project that includes design funds for Phase II of this project (rather than both Phase II and Phase III as presented).

**312 Public Works - Greenwich Avenue Streetscape & Repaving 312-960** - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the Greenwich Avenue project by $375,000, from $500,000 to $125,000 - what was proposed in the FY17 Budget for FY18. There was discussion
about an Eversource design of a street lighting plan to include Cobra lighting for the intersections to improve visibility as recommended by Eversource to the POCD Downtown Committee; a desire for the design process to include businesses, residents, and Town services; and for a review of the design prior to any implementation. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 1-3-0. Motion failed. (Opposed: Lash, Moriarty, Ramer)

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680 Schools - Soil Remediation - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to add a new project for soil remediation at Western Middle School for $2,000,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1-0. (Opposed: Lash)

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680 Schools - Digital Learning - Ms. Tarkington indicated she will consider proposing a condition requesting identification of two measurement / benchmarking goals.

680 Schools - Advanced A&E 680-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation for Advanced A&E from $550,00 to $450,000. No second.
680 Schools - Cardinal Stadium Feasibility Study 680-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation for the Cardinal Stadium Feasibility Study ($60,000). She indicated the remediation plan first should be approved by the state and federal regulatory agencies in order not to raise expectations. No second.

680 Schools - New Lebanon School project - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to add an appropriation of $2,298,000 to the New Lebanon Construction project to cover the cost for housing students in the existing building during construction. This request is linked to closing the appropriation approved last year for the same amount for the construction of modular classrooms. While supportive, Ms. Tarkington questioned the amount and requested that the work sheet comparing the cost of modulars, housing during construction within the New Lebanon School, and busing be circulated to clarify the comparative costs approved by the BET in FY17. It was confirmed that the project comparative worksheet with its details would be provided. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

701 Library - Parking Lot Curb Upgrade & Other 701-982 - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the $246,000 appropriation by $15,000 to $231,000. This change is due to the lack of need for police officers for traffic control. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

834 Parks & Recreation Marine Division - Cos Cob Ramp Phase II 834-970 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $350,000 and place in the FY19 budget. No second.

450 The Nathaniel Witherell - Domestic Water Line & Fire Line Replacement 450-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $180,000. No second.

Sewer Maintenance - Public Works - Force Main Improvement OG Common Force Main 361-965 – Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $240,000. The recent bid for a previous part of this project came in lower than budgeted so eliminating the need for these funds. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

Sewer Maintenance - Public Works – Sewer Rehabilitation 361-965 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation by $400,000 due to current funds availability from past Budget approvals. No second.

Sewer Improvement - Public Works - Grass Island WWTP Asset Management 361-965 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the appropriation of $1,500,000 by $400,000 to $1,100,000. The decrease is based on revised project estimates from the department. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

Mr. Drake proposed that the Committee consider adjusting the Capital schedule to clarify anticipated borrowing needs more accurately in the out-years. The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the 15-year model and agreed that it better represented potential future capital requirements. Mr. Geiger was asked to change the model by adopting the revised forecast capital spending. Mr. Ozizmir commented that an additional refinement of maintenance capital versus projects would improve understanding of the 15 Year Plan.

After accepting these actions, the total proposed Capital Budget is $45,236,000.
REVOLVING FUNDS/OTHER

The Budget Committee returned to the Operating Budgets for each of the Revolving Funds/Other including the Sewer Maintenance Fund, Sewer Improvement Fund, Nathaniel Witherell, School Lunch Fund, Parking Fund, Griffith E. Harris Golf Course, and OPEB & Retirement Board Fund and discussed and agreed upon the individual Budgets, subject only to the individual motions for the School Lunch Fund and Retirement Board Fund below.

670 School Lunch Fund - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to increase the food expense in the School Lunch Fund by $75,000. It was noted that the revenues would be increased by the same amount so the expected performance of the project is unchanged. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

Retirement - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to add $2,121,000 to the 51490 line for the estimated cost of outside fund management of the Retirement Fund. This expense would be charged back to the Fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

FUNDING CHART

The Committee reviewed the Financing and Funding Chart which calculates the mill rate necessary for a balanced budget. The Committee discussed the proposed flat Capital Tax Levy included in the First Selectman's Budget and that it was a change from prior years when the capital tax levy increased to meet the expected average annual maintenance capital level and higher debt service. The Committee discussed the higher level of uncertainty for the Town this year given potential implications of State budget proposals under discussion. Options for additional revenue to the Town to help offset the uncertainty include to decrease the use of fund balance or increase the Capital Tax Levy. Ms. Tarkington noted that if the Capital Tax Levy were increased by $2.24 million, then the resulting mill rate increase of 1.79% would match the rate proposed in the First Selectman's Proposed Budget.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to increase the Capital Tax Levy by $3 million. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The resulting mill rate increase from this change would be 1.99%. The Committee voted 4-0.

Mr. Ramer motioned to reduce the use of the fund balance to $10,600,000, which would result in a mill rate increase of 2.25%. No second.

Mr. Ramer asked if approving the amended FY18 Budget implied that the Committee was approving the Salary Schedules in the last section of the Budget Book, to which Mr. Lash responded that it did not imply that individual salaries were approved.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to accept the final budget as amended. The proposed Operating Budget is $421,783,246, which is lower than FY17. The proposed Capital Budget is $45,236,000. The implied Mill Rate increase in the final budget is 1.99%. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 4-0.

Ms. Tarkington and the Committee joined her, in expressing appreciation for the assistance provided by Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Gieger in the preparation and review of the FY18 Budget.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 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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680 Schools - Digital Learning - Ms. Tarkington indicated she will consider proposing a condition requesting identification of two measurement / benchmarking goals.

680 Schools - Advanced A&E 680-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation for Advanced A&E from $550,00 to $450,000. No second.
680 Schools - Cardinal Stadium Feasibility Study 680-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation for the Cardinal Stadium Feasibility Study ($60,000). She indicated the remediation plan first should be approved by the state and federal regulatory agencies in order not to raise expectations. No second.

680 Schools - New Lebanon School project - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to add an appropriation of $2,298,000 to the New Lebanon Construction project to cover the cost for housing students in the existing building during construction. This request is linked to closing the appropriation approved last year for the same amount for the construction of modular classrooms. While supportive, Ms. Tarkington questioned the amount and requested that the work sheet comparing the cost of modulars, housing during construction within the New Lebanon School, and busing be circulated to clarify the comparative costs as approved by the BET in FY17. It was confirmed that the project comparative worksheet with its details would be provided. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

701 Library - Parking Lot Curb Upgrade & Other 701-982 - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the $246,000 appropriation by $15,000 to $231,000. This change is due to the lack of need for police officers for traffic control. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

834 Parks & Recreation Marine Division - Cos Cob Ramp Phase II 834-970 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $350,000 and place in the FY19 budget. No second.

450 The Nathaniel Witherell - Domestic Water Line & Fire Line Replacement 450-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $180,000. No second.

Sewer Maintenance - Public Works - Force Main Improvement OG Common Force Main 361-965 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $240,000. The recent bid for a previous part of this project came in lower than budgeted so eliminating the need for these funds. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

Sewer Maintenance - Public Works – Sewer Rehabilitation 361-965 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation by $400,000 due to current funds availability from past Budget approvals. No second.

Sewer Improvement - Public Works - Grass Island WWTP Asset Management 361-965 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the appropriation of $1,500,000 by $400,000 to $1,100,000. The decrease is based on revised project estimates from the department. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

Mr. Drake proposed that the Committee consider adjusting the Capital schedule to clarify anticipated borrowing needs more accurately in the out-years. The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the 15-year model and agreed that it better represented potential future capital requirements. Mr. Geiger was asked to change the model by adopting the revised forecast capital spending. Mr. Ozizmir commented that an additional refinement of maintenance capital versus projects would improve understanding of the 15 Year Plan.

After accepting these actions, the total proposed Capital Budget is $45,236,000.
The Budget Committee returned to the Operating Budgets for each of the Revolving Funds/Other including the Sewer Maintenance Fund, Sewer Improvement Fund, Nathaniel Witherell, School Lunch Fund, Parking Fund, Griffith E. Harris Golf Course, and OPEB & Retirement Board Fund and discussed and agreed upon the individual Budgets, subject only to the individual motions for the School Lunch Fund and Retirement Board Fund below.

670 School Lunch Fund - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to increase the food expense in the School Lunch Fund by $75,000. It was noted that the revenues would be increased by the same amount so the expected performance of the project is unchanged. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

Retirement - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to add $2,121,000 to the 51490 line for the estimated cost of outside fund management of the Retirement Fund. This expense would be charged back to the Fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

FUNDING CHART

The Committee reviewed the Financing and Funding Chart which calculates the mill rate necessary for a balanced budget. The Committee discussed the proposed flat Capital Tax Levy included in the First Selectman’s Budget and that it was a change from prior years when the capital tax levy increased to meet the expected average annual maintenance capital level and higher debt service. The Committee discussed the higher level of uncertainty for the Town this year given potential implications of State budget proposals under discussion. Options for additional revenue to the Town to help offset the uncertainty include to decrease the use of fund balance or increase the Capital Tax Levy. Ms. Tarkington noted that if the Capital Tax Levy were increased by $2.24 million, then the resulting mill rate increase of 1.79% would match the rate proposed in the First Selectman’s Proposed Budget.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to increase the Capital Tax Levy by $3 million. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The resulting mill rate increase from this change would be 1.99%. The Committee voted 4-0.

Mr. Ramer motioned to reduce the use of the fund balance to $10,600,000, which would result in a mill rate increase of 2.25%. No second.

Mr. Ramer asked if approving the amended FY18 Budget implied that the Committee was approving the Salary Schedules in the last section of the Budget Book, to which Mr. Lash responded that it did not imply that individual salaries were approved.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to accept the final budget as amended. The proposed Operating Budget is $421,783,246, which is lower than FY17. The proposed Capital Budget is $45,236,000. The implied Mill Rate increase in the final budget is 1.99%. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 4-0.

Ms. Tarkington and the Committee joined her, in expressing appreciation for the assistance provided by Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Gieger in the preparation and review of the FY18 Budget.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

James A. Lash, Chairman