

1. BET Budget Comm. Consolidation Day Document

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TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
CONSOLIDATION DAY
Cone Room
Monday, February 26, 2007

Present:

Committee: Stephen Walko, Chairman
Edward Krumeich, Michael Mason, Larry Simon

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Ed Gomeau, Town Administrator

Board: Nancy Barton, James Himes, Arthur Norton, Alma Rutgers, Leslie Tarkington

Board Ex Officio: James A. Lash, First Selectman

Other: Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Greenwich Schools

Mr. Walko called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M.

OPERATING:

Board of Education: Dr. Wallerstein presented a chart that corrected employee headcount for the BOE. A previously submitted document showed the GEA line increasing to 820.6 from 815.4 whereas in FY 2007-08 the GEA FTE count should be 814.5 or a decrease of 0.9 FTE. Total certified staff in the FY 2007-08 budget is 879.3 or below the 882.7 that would be expected with a 10-1 staffing ratio. In addition, 3 FTEs were added to GMEA to reflect the opening of Hamilton Avenue School. The net impact from 2006-07 **actual** to FY 2007-08 Budget is an **increase** of 2.6 FTE

The district has been moving toward reducing the number of instructional aides, as recent studies have acknowledged the fact that there is improved student learning for students with special needs when they are with one certified teacher rather than several instructional aides. This is at a ratio of three instructional aides for every certified teacher. Therefore the number of aides has been reduced from 178 to 170.3 or a reduction of 7.7 FTEs.

The Nathaniel Witherell: Mr. Walko inquired as to when the subject of enterprise accounting would come before the BET, and Mr. Gomeau responded that this will occur in April 2007, and would not affect the budget.

Other topics with regard to Operating Budgets to be discussed on Decision Day include:

- The elimination of one tree crew and two tree crew positions
- A report from the HR Committee
- Traffic lights on Greenwich Avenue
- Retirement Board-condition regarding budget guidelines
- Retirement Board operating budget
- Reconciliation of pay outs on sick and vacation time
- Risk Fund-value of claims settled
- HR Department- head count survey
- Consultant work that is extraordinary-studies for the Audit Committee

CAPITAL: Items that will be discussed in depth on Decision Day.

Cos Cob Site Remediation: There are still questions surrounding the timing of state aid for the remediation. There was discussion as to beginning the work before state aid was received.

North Street Shed/Animal Shelter: A breakout of total costs was requested by Ms. Tarkington. This includes ground preparation costs, detailed building construction costs and the cost of the road that will need to be constructed to get to the buildings. The proposed cost was submitted as \$2,665,028.

TNW: Ongoing maintenance or money that may need to be spent to stay in operation for an orderly shut down in the event of construction or continuation should there not be construction.

King Street water line: This is a water line that is just over one mile long. Aquarion will oversee the design and construction of this project, and residents will pay a prorated share of the cost to install the pipe.

Library-Byram Schubert Renovation: Mr. Simon said that the Library is going out for bid, and it is expected that they will be \$1 million short and that the trustees have pledged to raise the remaining money. They expect a March 2007 groundbreaking. This is a 16-18 month project, and estimated to cost \$4.8 million.

Greenwich Town Center Master Plan: Funds for A&E projects for BOE and Senior Center (\$910,000 appropriation).

Safe Routes: Four Safe Routes to be discussed. There is a timing issue relative to money that has been spent and money that could reasonably be spent in 2007-08.

Phone System Upgrade: This system is Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) compatible.

Imaging and Archiving: Mr. Simon asked what resources would be needed to implement this system.

Sound Beach Avenue sidewalk: This project will put a sidewalk in between Shorelands Place and Shore Road, to connect already existing sidewalks. There is a complete sidewalk on the opposite side of the road, which is where the school is.

Railroad Avenue Sidewalk: Mr. Simon walked this sidewalk with Mr. Hubbs. Mr. Simon asked if there should be a plan for the street, and if the Planning and Zoning Department should be consulted.

Sound Beach Fire Apron Improvement: Mr. Gomeau said that the concrete anchor has been deteriorating over the last few years, has been patched repeatedly and needs to be replaced.

Lafayette Place Pedestrian Island: There was a question as to whether the movement of the Presbyterian Church Preschool to a new building would solve the problem. The focus of an expected report will assist in answering this question.

Mr. Walko said that the Western Junior High School at Henry Street has a similar island. There is a pedestrian overpass being considered for this area. Mr. Walko inquired as to the differences between the two methods.

Sewer Improvement/Sewer Maintenance: There was discussion as to conditioning money for the clean water fund project.

Energy Costs: This item was eliminated from the discussion involving Operating, and whether or not it will be put back into fixed charges, as opposed to within individual departments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Zebrowski, Recording Secretary

Stephen Walko, Chairman