

1. BET Special Meeting Webinar Agenda

Documents:

[BET_SPECIAL_WEBINAR_AGENDA_05-05-20.PDF](#)

2. Received By Chair At 1:40 PM Today May 5, 2020

Documents:

[RECEIVED_BY_CHAIR_AT_1_40_PM_MAY_5_2020.PDF](#)

3. SUB TO APP BET Special Webinar Minutes

Documents:

[SUB_TO_APP_BET_SPECIAL_WEBINAR_MINUTES_05-05-20.PDF](#)



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**

**BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
VIRTUAL WEBINAR
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – 3:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL MEETING WEBINAR INFORMATION

Please click the link below to join the special meeting webinar:

<https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/96753546705?pwd=NmxLbIZPMk8vOHFQRDBkcDZPcnRCdz09>

Password: 2322256

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +16465189805,,96753546705#,,1#,2322256#

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 518 9805

Webinar ID: 967 5354 6705

Password: 2322256

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. To reconsider the FY21 approved budget
3. Adjournment

Michael S. Mason, Chair

May 5, 2020

Proposed Revisions to the Approved FY21 Budget

Submitted by Leslie Moriarty, Laura Erickson, Miriam Kreuzer, Beth Krumeich, Jeff Ramer and David Weisbrod

The six BET members who requested this Special Meeting believe there is new information to consider modifications to the approved FY21 Budget. We are proposing a compromise position to meet the goals of the approved Budget, i.e., smaller growth in the Town budget and a reduction in the property tax mill rate, with concerns about the Schools budget using new information. We respectfully request all members engage in a dialogue about the issues.

- **Schools FY20 expenses:** The BOE determined that it would not seek an interim appropriation to cover \$1.12 million of special education costs that exceeded their budget. Initial higher expenses levels in February and March to deal with COVID-19 cleaning protocols switched to lower expenses due to the implementation of distance learning. The lines impacted by lower-than-budgeted spending due to distance learning are busing, substitutes, utilities and supplies. Earlier today, the Governor announced that Schools will not reopen for the rest of this school year. Like all departments, the Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) Administration is expected to return some amount of the FY20 budget, as it will not risk the possibility of being short funds at the end of the year (Charter requirement). In preparing estimates of the available Fund Balance for June 2020, the Comptroller assumed no returned funds for the BOE. Despite some unknowns, it would be reasonable to assume some level of returned funds, which could be as low as \$200,000 and as high as \$1 million. Given that Schools will not reopen this academic year, it is recommended that \$800,000 be added to the Schools budget, reflecting the expected return of unused FY20 operating budget appropriation. As this will be an unexpected increase to the Fund Balance, these funds should be appropriated for the BOE FY21 Budget.
- **CDC Recommendations Under Consideration for Reopening Schools:** There is additional information about the possible requirements for the schools to reopen in the Fall. The CDC recommendations under consideration are based on the objectives of increased physical spacing of students and staff and increased testing. This might be split sessions with morning and afternoon classes, impacting the length of the school day and transportation costs. Other ideas include alternating schedules with Monday/Wednesday/alternate Friday sessions

and Tuesday/Thursday/alternate Friday sessions. Augmenting reduced classroom time will include additional distance learning and other resources for more effective academic achievement. Other possible recommendations might include masks and other PPE for staff and students as well as testing all people entering the buildings, which might require staggered entrance times. Another recommendation being discussed reduces the number of students permitted on a bus, which would also have a significant impact on District costs. The Superintendent will need to prepare for a variety of several alternatives. Knowing her available budget will be important for her to do the necessary planning over the next several months.

- **Need for Superintendent to Plan:** Staffing decisions are made at the start of the school year, such that interim appropriations do not alleviate the structural changes that may need to be made with substantial reductions in the requested budget.
- **Public comments:** The significant concern of residents has been strongly communicated to the BET. In addition to the thousand emails we received prior to last week's vote, the BET has received hundreds more after that vote. In addition there is a petition with over 2,600 signatures asking for restoration of resources. There have only been a handful of emails supporting the budget approved by the BET last week. The basis for concern on the approved Schools budget is both for the benefit of the current students as well as to maintain the appeal of Greenwich for young families and property values for all taxpayers. Current parents are especially concerned about the lack for additional resources to counter the reduced instruction in the current distance learning model versus classroom learning. This is especially true for the special education students. Parents are also concerned about the impact of revised school protocols when schools reopen in the Fall and want confirmation that the Town will properly fund those efforts. These voices should not be ignored.
- **Reliance on Fund Balance for Interim Appropriations:** The source of funds for interim appropriations is Fund Balance. There should be a reconsideration of the budgeted funding sources to look at the balance of property tax revenue and use of fund balance.

This proposal represents a compromise to achieve the goals embodied in the budget adopted on April 27th. This proposal recommends adding \$1.5 million to the Schools budget, consisting of \$800,000 of an expected returned of FY20 operating funds plus another \$700,000 based on planning and incremental expense needs that can be anticipated.

MOTION: Reconsider the FY21 Approved Budget to increase the Schools budget (600-51010) by \$1,500,000 and increase the Use of Fund Balance by \$500,000.

These changes result in a revised Mill Rate of 11.620, a 0.51% reduction from the current mill rate of 11.682.

TOWN OF GREENWICH
2020 - 2021 Mill Rate Calculation

| | | Approved Budget | | 5/5/20 Proposed Changes | | 4/27/2020 Proposals | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>General Fund</i> | <i>2019 - 2020 Budget</i> | <i>2020 - 2021 Recommended Budget</i> | <i>2020 - 2021 Final Budget</i> | <i>Proposed Changes</i> | <i>Variance vs. Final Budget</i> | <i>2020 - 2021 Proposed Budget: Republicans</i> | <i>2020 - 2021 Proposed Budget: Democrats</i> | <i>Variance: Rep vs Dem Proposals</i> |
| Financing Requirement | | | | | | | | |
| Total Appropriations | | | | | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | | | | | |
| Town | 119,240,301 | 120,496,101 | 118,808,293 | 118,808,293 | - | 118,806,293 | 118,925,082 | 118,789 |
| Schools | 163,364,192 | 166,432,976 | 163,364,192 | 164,864,192 | 1,500,000 | 163,364,192 | 165,732,976 | 2,368,784 |
| Fixed Charges | 107,708,009 | 116,108,768 | 115,208,768 | 115,208,768 | - | 115,208,768 | 115,208,768 | - |
| Total | \$390,312,502 | \$403,037,845 | 397,381,253 | 398,881,253 | 1,500,000 | 397,379,253 | 399,866,826 | 2,487,573 |
| Capital | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Requests | 51,401,000 | 72,962,000 | 38,983,000 | 38,983,000 | - | 35,952,000 | 46,753,000 | 10,801,000 |
| Debt Repayments | 44,100,000 | 45,720,000 | 45,720,000 | 45,720,000 | - | 45,720,000 | 45,720,000 | - |
| Contn-Sewer Imprvmt Func | 1,350,000 | 1,270,000 | 1,270,000 | 1,270,000 | - | 1,270,000 | 1,270,000 | - |
| Borrowings | (43,004,000) | (63,105,000) | (34,973,000) | (34,973,000) | - | (31,942,000) | (40,743,000) | (8,801,000) |
| Total | 53,847,000 | 56,847,000 | 51,000,000 | 51,000,000 | - | 51,000,000 | 53,000,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Total Amount to be Financed | \$444,159,502 | \$459,884,845 | 448,381,253 | 449,881,253 | 1,500,000 | \$448,379,253 | \$452,866,826 | \$4,487,573 |
| Funding | | | | | | | | |
| Use of Unrest Fund Balance (6/30) | \$12,278,810 | \$12,278,810 | \$15,000,000 | \$15,500,000 | 500,000 | \$15,000,000 | \$15,278,810 | \$278,810 |
| Transfer from Unrestr Fund Bal | 3,000,000 | 4,100,000 | 4,100,000 | 4,100,000 | - | 4,100,000 | 4,100,000 | - |
| Other Revenues | | | | | | | | |
| State and Federal Aid | 224,330 | 670,376 | 670,376 | 670,376 | - | 670,376 | 670,376 | - |
| Various Revenue Reductions | 0 | 0 | (5,937,838) | (5,937,838) | - | (5,937,838) | (4,700,000) | 1,237,838 |
| Transfers From Other Funds | 9,125,000 | 9,401,981 | 9,401,981 | 9,401,981 | - | 9,401,981 | 9,401,981 | - |
| All Other | 38,040,377 | 42,860,851 | 42,860,851 | 42,860,851 | - | 42,860,851 | 42,860,851 | - |
| | 47,389,707 | 52,933,208 | 46,995,370 | 46,995,370 | - | 46,995,370 | 48,233,208 | 1,237,838 |
| Property Taxes | 381,490,985 | 390,572,827 | 382,285,883 | 383,285,883 | 1,000,000 | 382,283,883 | 385,254,808 | 2,970,925 |
| Total Revenues | 428,880,692 | 443,506,035 | 429,281,253 | 430,281,253 | 1,000,000 | 429,279,253 | 433,488,016 | 4,208,763 |
| Total Financing | \$444,159,502 | \$459,884,845 | \$448,381,253 | \$449,881,253 | 1,500,000 | \$448,379,253 | \$452,866,826 | \$4,487,573 |
| Mill Rate Calculation | | | | | | | | |
| Property Tax Revenue | 381,490,985 | 390,572,827 | 382,285,883 | 383,285,883 | 1,000,000 | 382,283,883 | 385,254,808 | 2,970,925 |
| Tax Settlements | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | - | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | - |
| State Senior Tax Relief | 270,000 | 270,000 | 270,000 | 270,000 | - | 270,000 | 270,000 | - |
| Town Senior Tax Relief | 900,000 | 950,000 | 950,000 | 950,000 | - | 950,000 | 950,000 | - |
| Est loss-current yr collections | 2,552,000 | 2,613,173 | 2,558,117 | 2,564,117 | 6,000 | 2,558,117 | 2,577,646 | 19,529 |
| Required Tax Levy | 386,713,293 | 395,906,000 | 387,564,000 | 388,570,000 | 1,006,000 | 387,562,000 | 390,552,454 | 2,990,454 |
| Estimated Grand List-Oct 1 | 33,102,411,425 | 33,401,653,098 | 33,438,497,489 | 33,438,497,489 | - | 33,438,497,489 | 33,438,497,489 | - |
| Mill Rate | 11.682 | 11.853 | 11.590 | 11.620 | 0.030 | 11.590 | 11.680 | 0.090 |
| Mill Rate Percent Increase | | 1.46% | -0.79% | -0.51% | | -0.79% | -0.02% | |



MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 in a virtual Zoom webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Chair Michael S. Mason called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Karen Fassuliotis, Vice Chairman
William Drake, Clerk
Andreas Duus III
Laura Erickson
Debra Hess
Miriam Kreuzer
Elizabeth K. Krumeich
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod

Selectmen: Jill K. Oberlander, Select-person; Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman

Staff: Angela Gencarelli, Ass't. Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Dept.; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems, Finance Dept.; Craig Jones, Information Technology (IT) Dept.; Vincent Marino, Town Attorney; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

BOE/GPS Peter Bernstein, Chairman, Board of Education (BOE); Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools (GPS); Joe Kelly, Member, BOE; Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer

OTHER: Webinar attendees ranged between 333 to 388 people during the length of the meeting; Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; GCTV; Jo Kroeker, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Leslie Yaeger, Editor, *Greenwich Free Press*

TO RECONSIDER THE FY2021 APPROVED BUDGET

Chairman Mason asked Ms. Moriarty to propose a motion.

- **Motion:** Ms. Moriarty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to reconsider the FY2021 Budget.

Discussion

Chairman Mason asked for discussion of the proposed motion.

Ms. Fassuliotis offered a Point of Order requesting the Chairman rule the Motion Out of Order because it did not meet the criteria of Robert's Rules. The Motion to Reconsider was neither made by a voter on the prevailing side, nor requested at the end of the April 27, 2020 meeting nor within the 24-hours thereafter. At the April 27 meeting, in order to allow the members to speak on individual appropriations grouped into larger motions, the rules were suspended to allow reconsideration of such individual appropriations. This suspension of the Rules applied to the April 27 meeting and any continuation of the April 27 meeting. The April 27 meeting was adjourned, not continued. The Motion to Reconsider applies to only a single meeting under that Motion to Suspend the Rules.

Chairman Mason thanked Ms. Fassuliotis for the information and ruled the Motion to Reconsider to be Out of Order.

- **Motion:** Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

Discussion

Town Attorney Marino was asked for his opinion on whether the Motion to Reconsider could be put on the floor at a meeting subsequent to its original adoption. Mr. Marino indicated that a motion to reconsider was not proper under these circumstances, because it was not made by one of the majority, and because suspension of the rules at the April 27 meeting did not suspend the rules for a subsequent meeting such as today's. He added that the filing of the Budget decisions in the Town Clerk's Office was another reason that this Motion to reconsider was not in proper order. The question of whether the BET could amend its budget before the deadline was discussed, however Attorney Marino pointed out that a Special Meeting Agenda could be for only one item, and an amendment was not on today's agenda. Proponents of the Motion to Reconsider asked for the opportunity to consider a compromise on the Education appropriations before a vote was taken.

- **Motion:** Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to override the ruling of the Chair. The Board voted 6-6-0. (Opposed: Drake, Duus, Fassuliotis, Hess, Mason, Tarkington) Motion failed.

Adjournment

Mr. Mason called for a roll call vote to adjourn the Meeting. The Board voted 7-6-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Kreuzer, Krumeich, Moriarty, Ramer, Weisbrod) Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

William Drake, Clerk of the Board

Michael Mason, Chairman

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL