

1. APPROVED BET Budget Comm. Meeting Minutes

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TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Cone Meeting Room
September 6, 2005

Present:

Committee: Valeria P. Storms, Chairman
Jara Burnett, Laurence Simon, Stephen Walko

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Ted Gwartney, Assessor; Nancy Brown, CDBG Director; Sue Wallerstein, Schools Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Marcos Madrid, Public Works; Ed Gomeau, Town Administrator; Caroline Baisley, Health Department

Board: Janice Gardner, Michael Mason, Alma Rutgers, Peter Tesei

Board Ex Officio: James A. Lash, First Selectman

Other: Art Norton, Leslie Tarkington, Republican nominees to BET

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

TA-1 ASSESSOR – Additional Appropriation – \$68,000

Request for additional appropriation:

\$68,000 to A135-51410 Prof. & Other Special Services – Audit/Accounting
\$68,000 from Contingency

These funds are requested to pay for 136 more personal property audits during this fiscal year. These audits are expected to bring in \$544,000 in back taxes and interest. If the audits are not begun before the 2005 Grand List is signed, half of the potential revenue will not be collectible, because state law allows collection of omitted taxes from assessment revisions in the three previous years in addition to the upcoming year – thus the need for the interim appropriation.

Mr. Simon requested that the assessor furnish numbers showing how much of the \$119,246 return on the audits done last year was taxes and how much was interest.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

A-1 FIRST SELECTMAN – Approval to Accept and Use - \$938,718

Request for acceptance and use:

\$938,718	to	Q197-59900	CDBG Budget
\$900,000	from		HUD Entitlement - CDBG Budget
\$ 38,718	from		Repayment of Loan - CDBG Budget

This request is for the acceptance and use, for the 2006 CDBG Program Year, of the 2006 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement and repayment of the loan made toward the construction of Parsonage Cottage. Nancy Brown discussed the programs and projects to which the largest amounts of money have been granted.

Mr. Walko requested that the Law Department review the accompanying resolution before the BET approves it at its September 2005 regular meeting.

The committee voted 3-0-1 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a non-routine application. The application was voted non-routine only because it must be approved by the BET as part of a public hearing designated for that purpose. Mrs. Burnett abstained because she is a board member of Greenwich Adult Day Care, a recipient of one of the largest capital grants.

ED-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION - Approval to Use - \$500

Request for approval to use:

\$ 500	to	A6201740-5295	Miscellaneous Professional Services
\$500	from		Grant

The Connecticut Principals' Center has awarded Greenwich High School \$500 to support technology learning activities for school administrators. These funds will further the BOE's professional learning goals and increase proficiency in manipulating performance data available through the data dashboard.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

ED-2 BOARD OF EDUCATION – Approval to Use - \$2,000

Request for approval to use:

\$1,500	to	A6200568-51060	Cos Cob School
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\$ 500 to A6201068-51060 North Mianus School
\$2,000 from Grant

This request is for approval to use a grant from a federally funded special education initiative called Project EVOLVE. The purpose is to provide information about best practices in the use of paraprofessionals to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities. Glenville School received money from the same grant last year.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

PW-1 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Additional Appropriation - \$25,000

Request for additional appropriation:

\$25,000 to R317-59600-24099 OG/Riverside RR Rehab
\$25,000 from CT DOT Railroad Fund Balance

Architectural design costs for the rehabilitation of the Riverside and Old Greenwich Railroad Stations were inadvertently left out of the amount needed at the time of the prior \$150,000 interim funding request. Therefore the account fell short by \$25,000. The approval of this request will be subject to written approval of the CT DOT.

Mr. Gieger reported that there is \$500,000 in the Railroad Fund Balance at present.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

HD-1 HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Approval to Use - \$58,253.68

Request for approval to use:

\$50,285.00	to	F403-51300	Temporary Salaries
\$ 3,000.00	to	F403-53010	Office Supplies
\$ 1,121.68	to	F403-54150	Maintenance - Furniture & Fixtures
\$ 3,847.00	to	A901-57050	Social Security
\$58,253.68	from		Public Act Funds - Grant

This request is to accept State of Connecticut Public Act Funds for fiscal year 2005-2006. The money will be used for:

Personnel services: a part-time health educator and a part-time Family Health nurse including FICA for these two positions.

Supplies: a paper shredder and a Xerox copier maintenance contract.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

HD-2 HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Approval to Use - \$32,662

Request for approval to use:

\$26,316	to	F4031-51100	Overtime
\$ 2,100	to	F4031-51920	Transfer from Other Departments
\$ 2,072	to	F4031-53250	Medical Supplies
\$ 2,174	to	A901-57050	Social Security

\$32,662 from Bioterrorism/Emergency Preparedness Planning Grant

This is a request to accept and use the final grant payment of state funds for Public Health Bioterrorism/Emergency Preparedness Planning in the amount of \$24,172 and an amendment payment of \$8,490 that will supplement the original grant.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request, subject to receipt of the funds, and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

HD-3 HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Approval to Use/Additional Appropriation - \$40,883

Request for approval to use and additional appropriation:

\$ 5,000	to	F187-51300	Temporary Services
\$19,000	to	F187-51490	Prof. & Other Spec. Serv.- NOC
\$ 1,000	to	F187-53520	Parts for Boats
\$ 500	to	F187-53750	Highway Materials
\$15,000	to	F187-59260	Marine Equipment
\$ 383	to	A901-57050	Social Security
\$40,883	from	F187-35024	Reserve Restricted Receipt Account Shellfish Permits

This request is for approval to use money from shellfish permits to purchase a new outboard boat motor, pay for shellfish program video production costs, pay for Eelgrass Program installation costs in Greenwich waters, and cover routine operating expenditures for the Shellfish Commission. The application is also for the required appropriation.

The committee recognizes the good work that the commission has done but would like to make the point that commission members need to plan better for its financial needs so that they are not constantly requesting funds during the fiscal year.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request/appropriation and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

BUDGET GUIDELINES FOR 2006-2007 FISCAL YEAR

Draft #6 of the 2006-07 Guidelines, dated September 6, 2005 was discussed. Three minor changes were made in the course of the meeting, and the need to rework the following two sections was agreed upon:

Mr. Mason wanted stronger language regarding the BET's expectations for efficiencies that might be found through consolidation of BOE and Town departments for non-certified functions. He and Mr. Walko agreed to redraft that section.

Mrs. Rutgers and Mrs. Gardner wanted to rewrite the Department of Social Services section and agreed to produce an alternative version. They felt that DSS is not in a position right now to take on responsibility for the funding of external entities in their budget, even though the funds for groups such as TAG and GADC are spent for social services. Mrs. Storms said she would like to confer with Pat Geismar, co-chairman of the board of Social Services about the concept.

The chairman asked that any comments and rewording be sent to her in writing before the September 12th BET meeting, so that they could be reviewed by the board at that time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Larry Simon, seconded by Jara Burnett, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2005 Budget Committee meeting.

There being no further business before the committee, upon a motion by Steve Walko, seconded by Larry Simon, the committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Valeria P. Storms
Valeria P. Storms, Chairman