TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Law Department Conference Room

Committee: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Elizabeth K. Krumeich

Other: John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney; Eugene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney; Roland H. Gieger, Budget & Systems Director; Michael Mason, Chairman, BET

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 P.M.

1. Discussion in Executive Session of pending cases in litigation
The Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 1:34 P.M. to discuss a case in pending litigation. After some discussion, the Committee voted 2-0 to come out of Executive Session at 1:58 P.M.

2. Review of New Budget Resolution – BOE Resolution
The Committee discussed with Attorney Ahmad, and Michael Mason, his proposal for a BOE Resolution for athletic donations to the BOE. Discussion items included that there may be donors for a stadium to be constructed at a cost of up to $30 million at Greenwich High School. Construction by the donors would be done turnkey similar to the GHS artificial turf fields. Unlike other Budget Resolutions it was proposed that donations would not be made to a designated 501(c)(3). Also, there was discussion about the applicability to the proposed resolution of other BOE Gift Resolutions which are not in the Budget Book and therefore approved by neither the BET nor the RTM. Ms. Tarkington expressed concern that consideration of projects on the GHS or Western Middle School fields be deferred until those schools receive federal and state regulatory approval for soil remediation plans for their identified soil contamination issues. Also, Ms. Tarkington requested that Attorney Ahmad research the proposed resolution for compliance with federal money laundering and income tax regulations, particularly gifts of $10,000 or more. Attorney Ahmad circulated a prepared draft resolution, which was modified during the meeting.

3. Review and Approval of Budget Resolutions
The Committee members provided comments on the existing Budget Resolutions, with focus on updating for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. No new proposed Bonding Resolutions were reviewed.

Ms. Tarkington asked Attorney Ahmad if she had followed up on the First Selectman’s Resolution #6 that permitted the acceptance of the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants. In early FY2016-2017, when the Town was awarded STEAP grants for the YWCA and Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Attorney Ahmad had suggested because of the Town’s contingent liability for ten-years after completion of the non-Town agencies’ capital projects and the Town’s ongoing responsibilities and liability for compliance directly with the State, that for the FY2017-2018 Budget year there be consideration given to whether for STEAP grants for non-Town entities (501(c)(3)’s), funds become appropriations only upon approval by both the BET and the RTM. Ms. Ahmad advised that she would speak to the First Selectman about that addition prior to its consideration by the BET Law Committee.
The Law Committee determined that the Budget Resolutions should be updated and brought to the Law Committee for approval at its March 8, 2017 meeting.

4. Review and Approval of Law Department Budget
The Committee discussed the Law Department Budget and staffing with Attorney Fox.

5. Discussion of State Street Investment Agreement and State Street Brokerage Agreement
Attorney McLaughlin advised that State Street Bank & Trust would be transferring the Investment Agreement to SSgA, which is another State Street Bank & Trust entity. Attorney McLaughlin requested additional information about SSgA, which would perform trust responsibilities for specific Town Pension Fund assets. Total capital of SSgA is $550 million, and to complete transfer of the assets from State Street Bank & Trust to SSgA may require both SEC and Massachusetts banking regulatory filings.

6. Review and Approval of December 9, 2016 BET Law Committee Meeting Minutes
The Minutes of the BET Law Committee Meeting of December 9, 2016 were approved by a vote of 2-0.

The Committee approved by a vote of 2-0 to add the Minutes of the BET Law Committee Emergency Meeting of February 13, 2017 to the Agenda Item 6.

The Minutes of the BET Law Committee Emergency Meeting of February 13, 2017 were approved by a vote of 2-0.

7. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Leslie L. Tarkington, BET Law Committee Chairman