

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Room
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon,
Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: Nancy Barton, Jim Campbell, Randall Huffman, Art Norton, Joseph
Pellegrino, Jeffrey Ramer

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director
John Crary, Town Administrator; Robert Lichtenfeld, Managing Director
of Operations, Board of Education; Princess Erfe, Administrator,
Community Development; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Valerie Maze
Keeney, Asst. Town Attorney; Aamina Ahmad, Asst. Town Attorney; A.
Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector

Other: Steven Anderson, Chairman; Leslie Moriarty Vice-Chairman, Board of
Education;
Bob Short, Project Manager, Family Centers; John Craine, Coastal
Resources Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

ED-8 Board of Education – Transfer - \$20,000

Transfer:

\$ 7,000	to	A6201753-53101	Non-Capital Inst. Equipment
\$ 8,000	to	A6201753-53100	Inst. Supplies
\$ 5,000	to	A6201753-54100	Maintenance of Inst. Equipment
\$ 10,000	from	A6201764-51390	Regular Wages / G & D
\$ 5,000	from	A6201764-51420	Prof. Medical & Dental
\$ 2,000	from	A6201764-51490	Prof. Services – NOC
\$ 3,000	from	A6201764-52360	Rental/Leases - Software

Dr. Lichtenfeld explained that this request is for assistive technology, and then gave a description of the items to be used for Special Education students with specific disabilities.

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the transfer under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

ED-9 Board of Education – Transfer - \$26,400

Transfer:

\$ 22,400	to	A6201760-53101	Non-Capital Instr. Equipment
\$ 4,000	to	A6201760-53070	Data/WP Supplies
\$ 14,400	from	A6201760-51390	Temp Services – Special Projects
\$ 12,000	from	A6201760-51420	Prof Services – Consultants NOC

Dr. Lichtenfeld explained that this request is to purchase updated Test Kits for Psychologists that are to be used for annual evaluations of students with special needs.

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the transfer under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

ED-10 Board of Education – Transfer - \$30,500

Transfer:

\$ 30,500	to	A6201776-52360	Rental/Leases – Software
\$ 30,500	from	A6201770-51390	Temp Services – Special Projects

Dr. Lichtenfeld explained that these funds are needed to conduct the Harris Survey, which is done on a semi-annual basis. Mr. Anderson stated that the above items will have no impact on next year's budget.

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the transfer under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

CD-4 Community Development – Additional Appropriation - \$26,921

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 26,921	to	Q19710-59900-29216	Rental/Leases – Software
\$ 26,921	from	Q19709-59900-29222	2009 CDBG Contingency

Ms. Erfe explained that this request is for the Cabinet & Counter Replacement Project at the Warburg Center. The additional funds are required to address a gap between the flooring and the bottom of the recently installed new cabinets. Princess Erfe and Bob Short indicated that they would seek additional bids for the work since the committee thought the cost to be very expensive. A brief discussion followed regarding the cost, and the use of contingency funds.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

SE-12 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$442,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 442,000 to P105-59940-21967 Storm Clean Up
\$ 97,000 from Risk Fund Balance
\$ 345,000 from Capital Non-recurring Fund

Mr. Crary stated that this request is due to storm damage, which will be presented to FEMA for reimbursement and may or may not receive approval. Mr. Mason stated that the funds will ultimately be dispersed among various departments. A discussion followed regarding generator service and replacement, funding sources, the probability of FEMA reimbursement, and Public Works and Parks & Recreation capital projects.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

SE-13 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$40,964

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 8,500 to F834-51300 Temporary Salaries
\$ 10,000 to F834-51400 Legal Fees
\$ 2,865 to F834-54190 Misc Prof Fees
\$ 3,797 to F834-52360 Software Maintenance
\$ 2,157 to F834-53520 Parts for Boat
\$ 645 to F834-57050 Social Security
\$ 13,000 to F834-59260-21969 Marine Equip New Motor
\$ 40,964 from Reserve for Restrictive Receipts

Mr. Crary and Mr. Craine gave an explanation for the request. Mr. Craine gave an overview of the dredging projects and requirements. A discussion followed regarding revenues, dredging, and increases in salaries, professional service and legal fees.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:20 P.M. to discuss litigation matters.

In attendance were:

BET Members: Mason, Finger, Simon, Tarkington, Barton, Campbell, Huffman, Norton, Pellegrino, and Ramer
Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Roland Geiger; J. Wayne Fox, Valerie Maze Keeney, Aamina Ahmad, and John Crary;
Board of Education: Robert Lichtenfeld, Steven Anderson, and Leslie Moriarty

The Committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 7:52 P.M.

SE-11 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$300,000

This item was taken out of order.

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 300,000 to P935-57350 Settlement

\$ 300,000 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

Upon a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:53 P.M. to discuss litigation matters. Mr. Simon left at 7:56 P.M.

In attendance were:

BET Members: Mason, Finger, Tarkington, Barton, Campbell, Huffman, Norton, Pellegrino, and Ramer

Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Roland Geiger; J. Wayne Fox, Aamina Ahmad, and John Crary

The Committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 8:12 P.M.

SE-10 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$30,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 30,000 to P935-57350 Settlement

\$ 30,000 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 (Mr. Simon absent) to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Collector Action Item Approval – Sewer Assessment Delinquencies

The Committee reviewed the Sewer Assessment Delinquency notice. Mr. Laudonia gave an overview and a brief discussion followed regarding language.

Upon a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Ms. Tarkington the Committee voted 3-0 to forward the notice to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for a first reading and review by the BET Law Committee.

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Geiger presented the Selected Revenues and Spending Rate April 2010 report to the Committee. Revenues lag projections by \$2.6 million and expenses are \$1.0 million higher than last year but still below budget by \$7 million. A brief discussion followed regarding conveyance tax legislation and the failure to renew the tax.

Recommended Mill Rate & Senior Tax Relief Review

The Committee reviewed the estimated Tax Relief program applications as of Monday, May 10, 2010. The total amount estimated is \$1,149,000. The application deadline is May 15, 2010. To date there have been no applications for the Tax Deferral Program. A discussion followed regarding the Mill Rate, revenues, fund balance, and the Senior Tax Deferral and Relief Programs.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, April 13, 2010

This item was postponed.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman