

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Room
Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Committee:
Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington
Board: Randall Huffman, Joe Pellegrino
Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman
Staff: Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Deborah Flynn, Business Office Manager, Health Department; Charlee Tufts, Executive Director; John Strong, Fiscal Officer, GEMS; David Ridberg, Chief; Greg Hannigan, Director, General Services Division, Police Department

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

Requests for Budget Adjustments

GM-1 GEMS – Release of Conditions \$1,731,247

Release of Conditions:

\$1,731,247 to A440-51490 Professional - NOC
\$1,731,247 from Release of Funds

Mr. Mason stated that this is a requirement in the agreement with the Town. Mr. Strong gave an overview of GEMS' Operational and Financial Quarterly Report. A discussion followed regarding depreciation of vehicles and equipment, rent expense, increased call volume and revenue, Medicare and Medicaid payments, hospital payment and agreements, in-kind services, and alternative sources of revenue.

Mr. Mason stated that the current GEMS contract created in 2001, has been extended to 2014, and the BET put a condition on the appropriation for the Central Fire Station. As the budget process begins, a decision should be made regarding the obligation to GEMS having to do with housing GEMS administration and training. Ms. Tufts stated that their needs have not changed since 2004, but even as in 2004 their space is woefully inadequate. Ms. Tufts also commented that the addition of Medic 4 has improved services greatly.

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

PD-3 Police Department – Additional Appropriation \$211,036

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 211,036 to Z213-59120-11107 Automotive Equipment
\$ 211,036 from Fund Balance

Chief Ridberg explained that this request is to purchase in this fiscal year nine of the eleven vehicles that were scheduled to be replaced in FY12. Due to Ford's plan to discontinue production of the model currently used for marked cars, the Police Department will need to order these vehicles before the order

banks close prior to April 2011. A discussion followed regarding transfer of equipment, the police car replacement schedule, patrol vehicle usage and typical mileage, and the cost of the equipment added or transferred to the vehicles.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Gieger presented the Selected Revenues and Spending Rate November 2010 report to the Committee. He is projecting higher revenues for Building Permits and Conveyance Tax and lower revenues for interest earnings. Overall revenues are expected to exceed budget.

Mr. Gieger stated that spending is \$6.5mm higher than last year of which approximately \$1.5million is due to a timing difference, primarily in healthcare and \$3.6 million in increased pension cost. Over the course of the year, healthcare costs are expected to be \$3million higher than last year, and the BOE salaries approximately \$4 million higher, due to the contractual GWI and step increases. A discussion followed regarding teachers' salaries, the spending rate, and Risk Fund recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mason reported that the OPEB and the Defined Benefit Actuarial Reports will be reviewed at the January 19, 2011 Budget Committee meeting. In preparation for the FY12 budget process, all information requests should be sent to Mr. Gieger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, November 9, 2010

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Finger, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2010, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman