

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting Room

Committee: Karen Fassuliotis, Chair; Elizabeth K. Krumeich

Law: Vincent Marino, Town Attorney; Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney; Valerie Maze Keeney, Assistant Town Attorney

BET: Leslie Tarkington

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

1. Executive Session of Pending Cases in Litigation

Upon a motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 3:02 PM to discuss pending cases in litigation. Motion carried.

The Committee entered into an Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted 2-0-0 to come out of Executive Session at 4:51 PM. Motion carried.

The Committee exited the Executive Session.

2. Law Department – COVID-19 Update

The Town Attorney presented an overview of how the Law Department is operating within the COVID-19 restrictions and the reopening of Town Hall on June 1, 2020^t. The Department is following the protocols established by the Town of Greenwich. All Law Department employees have completed the on-line COVID-19 training given through the HR Department and required by the State of Connecticut. Attorney Marino indicated that he has approved allowing a few employees to work from home due to health concerns during the Phase 1 reopening of Town Hall. Members of the Department have staggered attendance in Town Hall during Phase 1 and the Town Attorney is sensitive to the concerns of workers who have been asked to return to work at Town Hall. It is anticipated that as the Town enters Phase 2 and Phase 3 re-openings that unless there is a health reason, absence permitted under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or other reason consistent with State and Federal law, it will be expected that every Law Department employee will eventually work on site in the Law Department at Town Hall.

The Town Attorney also informed the Committee that he is working with the Assessor to compose a letter to the Secretary of the Office of Policy Management (OPM) to request that the Town's revaluation of real property be delayed for a year on the basis that if the Town conducted the revaluation in the current year, there will likely be an inequitable outcome due to an inability to complete physical inspection of properties in several districts, income/expense statements will be delayed and a delay will enable the Town to better evaluate the effects of vacancies in commercial properties. The Town Attorney confirmed that there is no statutory basis for requesting the delay, but given the disruptions caused by COVID-19 he is hopeful that the request will be granted. The Town Attorney also confirmed that the OPM Secretary has the discretion to turn down the Town's request.

The Committee again expressed great appreciation to Attorney Ahmad who has been invaluable to BET members, Town departments, boards and commissions, and the RTM in navigating virtual meetings, answering questions on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements, providing legal opinions on matters raised by the BET and RTM, as well as providing legal counsel on the many other challenges the Town government faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted 2-0-0 to accept the Minutes of the Regular BET Law Committee Meeting held on May 6, 2020. Motion carried.

4. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted 2-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 PM. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Law Committee shall take place virtually on Monday, July 13, 2020, at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fassuliotis, BET Law Committee Chair