



**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Hybrid Virtual and Town Hall Meeting Room

**Committee**

**Present:** Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Andy Duus, Leslie Moriarty, Jeffrey S. Ramer

**Staff:** Angela Gencarelli, Assistant Director, Budget & Systems Manager, Craig Jones, IT Department (Dept); Jenny Larkin, IT Dept; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Megan Zanesky, Risk Manager

**Board:** Michael Mason, Chairman; Karen Fassuliotis, Debra Hess, Miriam Kreuzer, Beth Krumeich, David Weisbrod

**Selectmen:** Jill K. Oberlander, Select-person

**BOE/GPS:** Peter Bernstein, Chair, Board of Education (BOE); Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, GPS; Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operations Officer, GPS; Dan Watson, Director of Facilities, GPS

**RTM:** Lucia Jansen, (D-7), Chair, BOC; Molly Saleeby, (D-8), Finance; Dan Ozizmir, (D-5), Vice Chair, BOC, Chair, LLC

**Other:** Elizabeth DeHaven, Melisa DeVita, Randi Drayer, Corinne Georgregoriu, Gillian Ingraham, Clare Kilgallen, Sarah Klochinski, Allison LaRow, Chalon Lefebre, Ethan Levine, Laura Lohan, Alex Madrid, Alex Madrid, Kara Mendelsohn, George Mullin, Aimee Muth, Silke Oellrich, Christine O'Neil, Renata Panchol, Karyn Perchard, Angela Schmidt, Principal, North Mianus School; Ayelet Steinberg, Tami Summerton, Horst Tebbe, GCTV, Kristina Theiss, James Waters, Elizabeth Zaccherio

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M.

**Requests for Budget Adjustments**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
ED-11	BOE	\$8,100,000	Interim Appropriation
	B6801089 59560		Collapsed Ceiling

The interim request for damage at the North Mianus School due to a ceiling collapse on February 13<sup>th</sup> was presented by Peter Bernstein, BOE Chair, and from Schools Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operations Officer, and Dan Watson, Director of Facilities. Megan Zanesky, Director of Risk Management, provided a presentation on process and status of pending insurance proceeds for the accident.

Mr. Watson shared that he requested Town input including recommendations for contractors for emergency demolition and rebuild and for engineering, now including architectural consultation.

Having spent operational funds towards clean-up which would be replenished from this capital appropriation, Schools requires funding for ongoing discovery, engineering, and repairs. Its request, prepared March 22, was based on actual expenses for damaged areas including emergency response and an estimate to rebuild damaged areas, additional demolition for preventative areas as well as other non-construction costs; and an estimate for architecture, engineering, and construction of the preventative areas. Incurred expenses and estimates of the balance of the remaining costs (to complete the emergency repairs as well as the preventative actions elsewhere in the North Mianus School) requested by Schools totaled \$8.1 million. This cost estimate includes the expenses to relocate 15 classrooms of students to other district buildings through June 30<sup>th</sup>. It does not include any costs for relocations that will be necessary for the next school year. Although insurance coverage will pay for the costs related to emergency damage and related expenses above the \$100,000 deductible, it is not expected that insurance would cover costs for preventative work in undamaged parts of the building. The Budget Committee discussed the scope of the project, the timelines for A&E, Town approvals, and construction. Questions were raised about temporary repairs to use the School until summer break. The concern on that alternative regarding liability appeared to take that option off the table.

The Budget Committee discussed either appropriating the entire requested \$8.1 million or initially a smaller amount for the clean-up, demolition and repair of the damaged areas and for demolition of the ceiling and development of the scope of work for the preventative locations work. After the Schools either receive firm bids or develop detailed cost estimates for the preventative work, approvals would be required of the BOE, BET and RTM. Discussed were concerns of any delays this might cause based on the projected project dates presented by the Superintendent given the RTM meeting schedule.

Upon a Motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Duus, to approve \$1.8 million for emergency response, remediation, and rebuild damaged areas, demolition of preventative areas on first and second floors, and other including FF&E, student transportation without conditions.

Motion to Amend: Mr. Ramer made a Motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to approve \$8,109,027 million with \$2,055,000 being immediately available and a condition for the release of the remaining amount subject to receipt and approval of project bids. The Committee voted 2-2-0. (Oppose: Duus, Tarkington). Motion failed.

Motion to Amend: Mr. Duus made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to approve \$2,055,000 to include a 20% contingency on estimated costs not yet incurred. The Committee voted 2-0-2. (Abstain: Moriarty, Tarkington). Motion carried.

On the Original Motion: As amended, to approve \$2,055,000. The Committee voted 3-0-1. (Abstain: Moriarty). Motion carried.

FI-5

Finance

\$2,055,000

Bonding Resolution  
authorizing issuance of  
million Bonds for collapsed  
ceiling of North Mianus  
School

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Upon a motion by Mr. Duus, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to approve a bonding resolution of \$2,055,000, the Committee voted 3-0-1. (Abstain: Moriarty). Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to appropriate an additional \$6.1 million and condition it upon the review and acceptance of bids on remaining work. The Committee voted 2-2-0. (Opposed: Duus, Tarkington). Motion failed.

Ms. Tarkington invited BET members present to comment. Members expressed concern about postponing the BOE requested \$8.1 million, that requiring the BOE to return to the RTM was an unnecessary burden, and that the lack of support of the full amount may cause a delay going to contract and return of the students to their building. On the other hand, another member suggested that the extra time would allow the BOE to understand the full scope of the work that would be expected and that it followed a process in place and wouldn't necessarily delay that process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

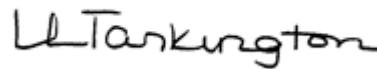
Upon a motion by Mr. Duus, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to adjourn the Budget Committee Special Meeting at 11:15 A.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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Peter Mynarski, Comptroller



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Leslie Tarkington, Budget Committee Chair