

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
 BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
 TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
 Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.**

Committee

Present: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Nisha Arora, Laura Erickson, Leslie Moriarty

Staff: Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Sean O’Keefe, Greenwich Public Schools Chief Operations Officer; Charlie Lubowicki, Assistant Fire Chief; Jackie Budkins, Town Clerk

Board: Dan Ozizmir, Chairman; Harry Fisher, Miriam Kreuzer

Other: Don Conway, GCTV

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A discussion on a legal matter was withdrawn and deferred to a later date. There was no Executive Session held:

2. Request for Budget Adjustments

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
SE-1	First Selectman	\$0.00	Settlement
	P935-57350		Mason v. TOG

The matter of Mason versus The Town of Greenwich was withdrawn and deferred to a later date. No action was taken.

ED-1	Board of Education	\$1,231,687	Transfers
	Various Accounts		Year-End Adjustments

Mr. O’Keefe presented this request for year-end General Fund transfers. He explained that surpluses in various maintenance and salary accounts were needed to meet a shortfall in costs associated with the Special Education needs program. Ms. Moriarty and Ms. Erickson expressed concerns that these shortfalls would continue over into the current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget. Mr. O’Keefe agreed with their comments and shared their concerns. However, he felt that the current administration was working on ways to offset these future costs with program changes.

In addition, Mr. O’Keefe told the Committee that the Greenwich Public School budget ended up with a surplus of \$521,235.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the BOE transfers of \$1,231,687 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The vote was 4-0-0 to approve the transfers. Motion carried.

ED-2	Board of Education	\$0.00	Transfers
	S670 Various		School Lunch Fund
			Year-End Adjustments

Mr. O’Keefe reported to the Committee that expenditures were under budget and revenues were well above budget. There was no need for any transfers and no action was taken.

FD-1	Fire Department	\$186,000	Transfers
	A202, 204, 205 Various		Overtime & Injury Expenses

Assistant Chief Lubowicki presented this item on behalf of the Fire Department. He reported that transfers were needed to cover higher overtime costs and overtime associated with injury pay expenses.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve year-end transfers of \$186,000 for the Fire Department, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve and make the item routine. Motion carried.

NW-1	Nathaniel Witherell	\$30,000	Transfer
	H450 01 56280		Medical Liability Costs

Mr. Mynarski reported that the Medical Professional Liability Insurance Policy for The Nathaniel Witherell was \$30,000 over budget requiring a transfer of funds from a surplus in the Healthcare Account to cover the shortfall.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the year-end transfer of \$30,000 for The Nathaniel Witherell, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve and make the item routine. Motion carried.

TC-1	Town Clerk	\$40,000	Transfer
	A150 51010, A101 Various		Department Expenses

Town Clerk Jackie Budkins appeared to present the item for a transfer. She stated the transfer was needed; 1) to cover regular salary expense created by the conversion of a part-time worker to full-time, 2) to cover overtime expense at the RTM meetings with an additional worker in attendance and 3) to pay for a new RTM voting system.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the year-end transfers of \$40,000 for the Town Clerk, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve make the item as routine. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger presented this item and highlighted the performances of conveyance taxes, building permits and interest income on his report. He informed the Committee that overall, the revenues were \$18 million over budget including \$6 million in conveyance taxes and building permits. Together with expenses under budget by \$6 million, and use of \$20 million of fund balance in the FY23 mill rate calculation, about \$4 million would be contributed to increase opening fund balance.

Mr. Mynarski added comments on the overall positive performances of the General Fund and other funds. He noted that the numbers are all preliminary because they must keep the accounts open for 60 days to ensure the proper recording of all year-end revenues and account payables,

- **Retirement Board – Additional Full-Time Employee**

Mr. Mynarski told the Committee that the request for an additional full-time employee with the reduction of the part time employee had already been approved by the Retirement Board, Town Administrator and the Human Resources Committee.

Ms. Moriarty suggested that an additional part-time employee could be hired as an alternative. Ms. Tarkington commented on the increased staffing to the HR Department, the declining number of total retirees, inactive vested, and active employees in the retirement fund had reduced by 387 or 12% since the previous full-time person was employed in 2011, and the disparity of approving a full-time position without an offsetting position.

Additional comments were added by Mr. Ozizmir and Ms. Kreuzer.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the conversion of an existing part-time employee to the status of full-time, the Committee voted 3-1-0 (Ms. Tarkington voted no) to approve the item. Motion carried.

- **Harbor Commission – Dredging CIP**

Mr. Gieger told the Committee that the capital project for Greenwich Harbor Dredging was now being reporting under the category of External Entities. It was moved from the Parks and Recreation Department and will be under the authority of the Office of the First Selectman.

Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Budget Committee Meeting of June 14, 2022, as amended, the BET Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 A.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

Leslie L. Tarkington, Budget Cmte Chair

The next Regular Meeting of the BET Budget Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 1:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.