

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – 11:30 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; Barbara Schellenberg, Town Attorney, Charlie Lubowicki, Assistant Fire Chief, Mark Zuccerella, Police Captain, Andrew M. McPherson, Goldstein and Peck, P.C. Attorney

Board:

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman, Miriam Kreuzer, Jeff Ramer

Other:

Don Conway, GCTV

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 11:34 A.M.

1. **Executive Session**

The BET Budget Committee held an Executive Session to discuss the following legal matter:

- Smith-Morton v. Town of Greenwich

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to enter into Executive Session at 11:34 P.M. to discuss the above noted legal case, the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to close the Executive Session at 12:16 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

2. **Request for Budget Adjustments**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
SE-8	First Selectman	\$20,000	Settlement
	P935-57350		Smith-Morton v. TOG
FD-2	Fire Dept.	\$45,000	Transfer
	A202 52090, 52110		Tuition & Mileage

This item was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken on the matter.

Assistant Chief Lubowicki presented this item explaining that due to a high number of retirements, the Fire Department has used all available funds for recruitment training, tuition and mileage reimbursements. He explained that the Fire Department had budgeted for 4 new recruits but has already sent 6 new employees to the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruitment Programs and there is a need to send 2 more recruits to the academy for the February class.

Assistant Chief Lubowicki added that the cost to send recruits to the academy has risen from \$6,000 to \$7,000 in the last year and will further increase to \$7,500 for the fall 2023 class. The

specific accounts included in the request will be reviewed by the Fire and Finance Departments and may be modified prior to the full BET meeting.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to transfer \$45,000 from the supplies account for mileage, and tuition accounts to cover expenses for new recruits at the fire training academy. Motion carried as a Routine matter.

PD-6	Police Dept.	\$35,000	Approval to Use
	F2173 51100		State of CT Grant

Police Captain Zuccerella requested permission to use \$35,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant awarded by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The grant will cover overtime costs to place specially trained and equipped police officers in identified locations and times best suited to deter and/or safely apprehend offenders committing auto thefts and associated crimes within the Town's jurisdiction.

Ms. Erickson inquired as to whether this grant was covered under an existing Budget Resolution. Mr. Mynarski responded that he would research the matter and report back to the BET.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to use \$35,000 from the ARPA Auto Theft and Violence Grant awarded by the State of Connecticut. Motion carried as a Routine matter.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger reported that Conveyance tax collections were lagging behind those of the last two years, but they were still above budget. He added that Building Permit revenues were trending the same as last year. The Interest Income was coming in much higher than budgeted due to rising interest rates.

It was reported that property tax collections were under reported by \$20 million due to upgrades in TD Bank computer systems, requiring the Town to upgrade its internal reporting. Although the tax receipts were not reflected in the presented report, the cash is in the bank.

It was also reported that the recording of Parking Services revenues was also undergoing internal computer systems upgrades and understated in the report.

Ms. Tarkington asked about the negative variance in Senior Center expenses. Mr. Gieger responded that he would research the variance and get back to the BET.

Ms. Tarkington stated that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for December was up 0.2% and 6.3% for the year.

The Budget Committee members discussed the upcoming budget process. Ms. Tarkington stated the process will start next Tuesday, January 24th with presentations from the First Selectman and the Board of Education followed by a Public Hearing. She said there will be the option for written public comments for those who cannot attend the meeting.

Ms. Moriarty asked if the option for written comments from the public be left open until the end of the week. She also requested that the public be granted the option to call in with comments. Ms.

Tarkington responded that the opportunity to submit written comments as an alternative to speaking at the Public Hearing would end at the earlier of the close of the Public Hearing or at 11:50 PM on January 24th. The meeting will be televised by GCTV on Channels 24, 79, and YouTube.

The Chair reported that the FY24 Budget monthly Department Calendars and the FY24 Budget Meeting Calendar is posted in the Budget Documents & Schedules section of the Town's website as well as the BET and BET Committees' Meeting Calendars pages of the Town's website. Meetings will be televised by GCTV on Channels 24, 79, and their YouTube Channel.

There were also several requests to Budget Director Roland Gieger to provide a variety of expense reports prior to the upcoming deliberations.

4. 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 December 6, 2022, as amended, the BET Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 P.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 Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.