TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

Media Center Rooms 1 & 2, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT
MINUTES – Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Committee
Present: James A. Lash, Chairman; Leslie B. Moriarty, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Peter Siecinski, Fire Department Chief; Robert Kick, Fire Department Assistant Chief; James Heavey, Chief, Police Department; Sgt. John Thorne, CIO Narcotics K9 Unit; Ben Branyan, Town Administrator; Melissa Jones, Senior Management Analyst; Amy Seibert, Commissioner Public Works; Alan Monelli, Superintendent, Building Construction & Maintenance; John Thompson, Maintenance Foreman, DPW Building Construction & Maintenance

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chairman; William Drake, Beth Krumreich, Arthur Norton, Jill Oberlander, Tony Turner, Nancy Weissler

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo, Selectman

BOE: Peter Sherr, Board of Education, Chairman; Barbara O’Neill, BOE Member; Debbie Appelbaum, BOE Member; Gaetane Francis, BOE Member; Sal Corda, Superintendent of Schools; Irene Parisi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Jim Hricay, BOE Managing Director of Operations; Ron Matten, BOE Director of Facilities; Laura White, Program Coordinator Arts & Music

Other: Charlee Tufts, Director, GEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

Mr. Lash welcomed Committee members and attendees.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE-12</td>
<td>First Selectman</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Release of Conditions</td>
<td>Byram Fire Station Rehab</td>
<td>345 59560</td>
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Mr. Tesei and Chief Siecinski requested the release the conditions on the capital funds to begin interior rehabilitation of the Byram Fire Station scheduled in the sequence as the next project under the December 2000 Fire Station Improvement Plan. In addressing the Condition placed by the BET, Mr. Tesei indicated that GEMS administration would not fit in the building, thus the Town is proposing to move forward with the renovation project. Mr. Tesei explained that the timing for beginning the project would coincide with the availability of the temporary facility at Horsemere as the remainder of the Central Fire Department fire equipment would be moved, into the new Safety Complex by the end of February. He recommended that the Byram firefighting equipment and staff be moved into the Horsemere location. This will allow continued use of the swing space and thus remain in compliance with P&Z’s requirement for the temporary facility to be demolished within 6 months of the facility being vacated.
Mr. Tesi indicated that his health impairments resulting in an inability to perform his job as Fire Chief will create a need for a station in this community and identified that the Byram professional station has the fifth highest call volume. Chief Siecierski added that the Byram peninsula made the current location of the firehouse highly strategic. He believes that not maintaining the Byram location could add minutes to the response time of other firefighting units and jeopardize his Department’s high standard of public protection and safety. While the condition of the facility needs to be addressed, the size of the facility is insufficient for co-occupancy by GEMS. Mr. Tesi stated GEMS is being encouraged to come up with a plan for an independent location for its headquarters and provide the resources needed for its own new facility.

Mr. Tesi indicated that he will be including a request for a Fire Services Study in the FY18 capital budget. He referred to the many questions raised over the past few years in response to requests for additional staffing and the northwest station. The last outside study is dated. Mr. Tesi referred to a request he made to the BET Chairman for use of current year operating funds to perform this study, but he was advised to seek funding in the FY18 budget.

Ms. Moriarty commented that the outcome of this Study might impact the facility plan for the Byram station, so that the renovation project might benefit from a delay. Ms. Tarkington added that the study should not assume professional firefighting standards for the backcountry, and that it and other conditions should be included in the study itself. Mr. Ramer remarked that doing the construction on the Byram Forestation three years after the construction on Central was at least a year sooner than the customary pacing of the fire station renovations by the Town and would inconvenience coincide with the likely timing of possible construction on a northwest GEMS facility. Mr. Ramer also said it would be better first to complete the Fire Service Study. Mr. Ramer also asked Alan Monelli about the feasibility of holding the temporary forestation facility at Horseneck vacant for an extra year to accommodate such a delay. Mr. Monelli indicated it was possible although not ideal and would require further permission from the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Lash asked if a ladder truck could fit in this station, to which the Fire Chief said it would not. He also commented that once the condition on the funds was released, it would be 18-24 months before a renovated facility would be in use.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to continue the application for release of condition until the Budget Committee’s February Hearings or regularly scheduled meeting.

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<th>ED-2</th>
<th>BOE</th>
<th>Additional Appropriation</th>
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<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Z680</td>
<td>Western Middle School Fields</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contamination</td>
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Mr. Hricay requested the additional appropriation for additional testing to ascertain the extent of the soil contamination, specifically PCBs, and assist in delineating the area that would need to be remediated at Western Middle School Fields. Mr. Lash questioned the timing of the project asking if the fields would be ready for use next summer. Ms. Tarkington asked whether it would be more consistent in terms of discussion with federal and state regulators, as needed, to use AECOM rather than Langan to prepare any remediation plan. Ms. Tarkington recommended that the $15,000 for busing for WMS Sports be removed, because it was not an testing or remediation cost, and if needed by the BOE, be requested in a separate appropriation. Ms. Moriarty suggested that the BOE plan ahead for the request of an appropriation for remediation of the fields so that the work is not delayed by BET and RTM meeting schedules.

BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes January 10, 2017 – Approved 2
A motion was made by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to approve the application for $235,000 and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Non-Routine Application.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty to amend the appropriation to include $15,000 for Busing for WMS sports, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 2-2, and the motion failed (Opposed: Lash and Tarkington).

On the original motion, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the application for $235,000 and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Non-Routine Application.

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<tr>
<th>ED-3</th>
<th>BOE</th>
<th>Additional Appropriation</th>
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<tr>
<td>$791,800</td>
<td>Z680</td>
<td>Hamilton Avenue School Field</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reconstruction</td>
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The Board of Education requested an Additional Appropriation to repair and level the existing field at Hamilton Avenue School. The field, which was not completed at the end of the construction project, was not previously addressed due to the construction litigation (now settled) and the necessary repairs to the garage. The construction funds which were to be used for this project were redirected to those repairs. The funds remaining in the Construction account do not cover the cost of this project.

The project proposes to address damage to the field from the construction as well as create a level playing field. Mr. Sherr, BOE Chairman, replied to Mr. Lash that this was not an item in the BOE capital request, and that the request was a separate part of a construction project. Mr. Hricay added that an additional appropriation would allow the project to be started earlier so that it minimizes the time that the field would not be available to the students in the fall.

When Mr. Lash asked why the Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee had not closed-out the project so that the amount left after litigation could have been repurposed to restore the playing field, Mr. Hricay commented that the funds to repair the garage utilized much of the remaining appropriation, leaving about $189,000. The BOE intended to use some of those funds to complete the CO process and then lapse the remaining appropriation.

Ms. Tarkington expressed concern that two other western Greenwich playgrounds would be out of service due to soil contaminants, and the Hamilton Avenue field would become the third unusable field on the western side of Town. Given its location and its use for construction debris, it was likely the proposed project could require soil testing. She commented that an alternative project was referenced in the documentation, but no detail for the less expensive project had been submitted.

She asked that the Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee first, complete the Project's certificate of occupancy and accounting to close-out the existing project so that reimbursement could be requested from the State OSF, and second, begin the State's audit of the School project so that the reimbursement retainage withheld by the State could be dispersed. More than $32 million has been approved for the Hamilton Avenue School project to date.

She noted that the chart submitted showing average acreage of school grounds was misleading:
for example, the North Street School parcel also housed the animal shelter, the Parks and Recreation maintenance facility, and the Fire Training Facility; and that the Parkway School parcel is used for the GEMS Art Barn/Lower Cross Road facility and parking lots. Mr. Mason reminded the Committee that the field project was intended to be addressed by the approximately $420,000 of remaining construction funds (before the garage repairs costing $231,000 were identified).

Mr. Lash asked that the BOE provide additional information to justify what functionality is needed so that it can be better understand why the extensive rehabilitation plan to level the field costing $791,800 is more appropriate than the alternate plan addressing the playground for $300,000. Mr. Lash also asked for a discussion of how this project fits within the overall BOE priorities for capital spending.

Ms. Tarkington requested that, when the project returned to the Budget Committee, it (and the future Western Middle School fields remediation request), come with a bonding request, also.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to postpone further discussion on the request until the next regularly scheduled Budget Committee meeting.

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<th>ED-4</th>
<th>BOE</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
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<tr>
<td>$27,946.64</td>
<td>A6201730 5320</td>
<td>Equipment Rental, Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A 6201770 52097 &amp; 52090</td>
<td>Learning, Travel Expense</td>
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Ms. Parisi introduced the item indicating the BOE was requesting a major object code transfer of funds for the purpose of renting musical instruments and to cover travel expenses for a national conference. Ms. Parisi and Ms. White explained the rationale of rental versus purchase of new music equipment. A recent survey had found that 1) the volume of requests to participate in musical education had increased, 2) the condition of the current musical equipment demanded replacement, and 3) requests were being made for instruments other than what Schools owned. The current inventory was approximately 170 instruments, whereas 300 instruments were being requested. The rental agreement requires three payments of approximately $26,000 each over a 3-year period, whereas purchase would cost approximately $70,000 but it would leave the Administration without funds to replace pianos and other instructional equipment. Mr. Lash confirmed the BOE obligation in the next two operating budgets for the lease payments. There was discussion about which teachers would travel to Texas and that ten teachers annually attend conferences with travel beyond the tri-state area. Ms. Parisi indicated that typically 2 teachers would attend a conference and they would bring back the information to share with other staff members.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the transfer of funds for $27,946.64.

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<tr>
<th>PD-4</th>
<th>Police</th>
<th>Approval to Use</th>
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<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>F2131 52090</td>
<td>Canine Training Tuition</td>
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Chief Heavey and Sgt. Thorne requested the use of forfeiture funds for cross-training of the Department’s K9 to identify narcotics. Since space at state programs is limited, a private training program in New Milford, CT has been identified so that the course can be taken immediately. The request covers cross-training ($4,000) and monthly in-service training ($3,000).
Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the application for $7,000 and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Routine Application.

Old Business
None

New Business
None

Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 3-0-1 to approve the Minutes of the Budget Committee's Regular Meeting December 13, 2016. (Abstain: Moriarty)

Mr. Lash encouraged BET members to submit any questions in advance to Mr. Gieger if there is something specific they want asked of Departments during the February Budget Hearings to meet their expectations for a productive process.

Adjournment

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.

Next regular meeting will be February 13, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

[Signature]
James A. Lash, Chairman.