Town of Greenwich
First Selectman’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects Committee

January 14, 2016
2:00 p.m.
Mazza Room

Minutes

1. The meeting opened at 2:10 P.M.

Mr. Tesei welcomed attendees and introduced the newly appointed BET member to the CIP Committee, Ms. Leslie Moriarty. The CIP Committee will have two rotating BET members, Ms. Moriarty and Mr. Mason.

Mr. Tesei remarked that the Town of Greenwich had just received its annual ranking from all three financial rating agencies – Moody’s, Fitch and Standard and Poor’s -- for its fifth year; the Town of Greenwich’s financial management practices were recognized with a triple-A rating. The rating favorably influenced the interest rate offered for the Town’s Bonds which had been offered at the recent auction.

Noting that the Town faced challenges of raising healthcare costs, pension contribution, subsidies for Nathaniel Witherell and the school lunch program, Mr. Tesei asked the Committee to assist him to make discretionary decisions to reduce, adjust, or delay expenditures among the CIP projects so that the mill rate would not climb to 4.2% in FY17.

Attendance of Voting Members:

i. Peter J. Tesei  First Selectman – Present
ii. William McKersie  Superintendent of Schools – Present
iii. Amy Siebert  Commissioner of Public Works – Present
iv. Katie DeLuca  Town Planner – Present
v. Peter Mynarski  Comptroller – Present
vi. Joe Siciliano  Director of Parks and Recreation – Present
vii. Chip Haslun  Greenwich Library Board of Trustees – Present

Attendance of Non-Voting Members:

i. Laura Erickson  Board of Education, Chair – Present
ii. Erf Porter  RTM Representative – Present
iii. Danyal Ozizmir  RTM Representative – Present

Attendance of Professional Staff Supporting CIP Committee:

i. Benjamin Branyan  Town Administrator – Present
ii. Melissa Jones  Senior Management Analyst - Present
iii. Roland Gieger  Budget Director – Present
iv. Ron Matten  Director of Facilities, Board of Education – Present
v. James Hricay  Managing Dir. of Ops, Board of Education – Present
vi. Alan Monelli  Dir of Bldg. Construction & Maintenance - Town – Not Present
vii. Angela Gencarelli  Financial Analyst – Present
2. Approval of Committee Minutes from meeting of January 11, 2016

Mr. Mynarski suggested amending two errors.

Upon a motion by Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Mynarski, the Committee voted 7-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2016 Committee Meeting as amended.

3. Overview of Meeting Schedule

Mr. Tesei reminded Committee members of the Public Hearing scheduled for January 21, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the Cone Room.

4. Continuation of discussion of CIP Projects

The Committee discussed how their project ranking process was influenced by the First Selectman’s positioning priorities on the original ranking sheet. Mr. Porter gave an example of how his personal priority would be safety, and therefore his rankings would have been radically different from the First Selectman’s priority list. He suggested a reevaluation of projects giving the example of the Eastern Civic Center project for which private support was anticipated.

5. Discussion Regarding Next Steps

The Committee discussed how decision-making background information could be improved so that in the future, decisions were not made on information that is later found to be too optimistic. The political accountability process for scrutinizing the financials of proposed projects was reviewed. Mr. Branyan offered to try to integrate the 15 Year Plan with a Project funding model with Mr. Gieger and would work on updating CIP ranking criteria in the future.

6. The meeting adjourned at 3:37 P.M.