TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Meeting Room
Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Committee:
Present: Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman; William R. Finger, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: Michael Mason, Robert Brady, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Marc Johnson, Mary Lee Kiernan, Art Norton

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator, John Wayne Fox and Aamina Ahmad, Law Department; Joan Sullivan and Eileen Ingalls, Purchasing Department

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:30 P.M. to discuss pending litigation matters.

In attendance were:
Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Geiger, Budget Director, John Wayne Fox and Aamina Ahmad, Law Department

BET Members: Pellegrino, Ramer, Finger, Tarkington, Mason, Brady, Goldrick, Huffman, Johnson, Kiernan and Norton

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 7:00 P.M.

REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

SE-5 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation $27,000

Additional Appropriation:
$ 27,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Milliou v. TOG
$ 27,000 from Risk Fund Balance

This item was discussed in Executive Session with Attorneys Fox and Ahmad.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.
SE-6 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation $50,000

Additional Appropriation:
$ 50,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Trujillo v. TOG
$ 50,000 from Risk Fund Balance

This item was discussed in Executive Session with Attorneys Fox and Ahmad.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

PUR-2 Purchasing – Additional Appropriation $351,376

Additional Appropriation:
$ 351,376 to Z106-59250-13208 Avaya Software Upgrade
$ 351,376 from Capital Non-recurring fund

This item was presented by Purchasing Agent Joan Sullivan and Ms. Ingalls with additional comments from Mr. Brady and the Town Administrator, Mr. Crary. The Town was advised by the vendor, Avaya, that software support to the Town, Greenwich Library and the Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home would no longer be provided unless upgrades to the embedded software was done. In the course of discussion, the following topics were discussed: 1) if a software failure occurred, it would NOT impact fire, police or GEMS; 2) there has only been one software glitch in the past five years; 3) the Town still has as many as 30 analog lines, so calls could still be received and placed on those lines; 4) many if not most Town Employees, and especially MC employees have cell phones; 5) Skype, a free internet service, could be used between each town employee with a computer to "call" other Town employees; and 6) if a failure did occur it would mostly lead to an inconvenience for a period of time until the vendor installed the upgraded software.

The Committee voted 0-4 and did not approve the request. The Committee recommended not forwarding the request to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

FL-1 Fleet – Transfer $35,000

Transfer:
$ 35,000 to A380-53550 Mechanical Supplies
$ 35,000 from A380-54200 Maintenance of Machinery

This item was presented by Mr. Gieger. Mr. Gieger informed the Committee that this was a budgeting error and the application was forwarded to correct the coding to the proper budgetary line items.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the July 1, 2012 Retirement System of the Town of Greenwich Actuarial Review and Analysis

This item was presented by Mr. Mynarski. Mr. Mynarski indicated the July 1, 2012 report was prepared using a 7.5% assumed rate of return and the Committee’s vote should reflect that.

On a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted to approve and accept the Actuarial Review for the Retirement System, using a 7.5% assumed rate of return. The Committee wanted the minutes to reflect that the 7.5% rate approved was only for the report dated July 1, 2012 and a further reduction to the rate next year would be revisited at that time. The vote passed in favor 4 to 0.

Approval of the July 1, 2012 Other Post-Employment Benefits Actuarial Report

Mr. Mynarski presented this item and also informed the Committee members that a 7.5% assumed rate of return was recommended for this report also.

On a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted to reduce the assumed rate of return for the OPEB Report from 7.75% to 7.5%, similar to the rate using for the Retirement System. The vote passed 4 to 0.

On a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to approve and accept the amended OPEB Actuarial Report.

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Gieger gave a report of the status of current economic conditions, highlighting the fact that Conveyance Tax Receipts were up dramatically in December 2012. In addition, Mr. Gieger informed the Committee that the spending was approximately $7.5 million higher than the same period of last year. Mr. Gieger explained the reasons for the higher spending pattern and suggested that the Town is in good financial shape and anticipated Fund Balance growth similar to last year. Mr. Mason and Mr. Pellegrino pointed out, however, that the margin of available General Fund balances to be used for the FY 14 Budget would be limited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, December 13, 2012

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2012, Budget Committee Regular Meeting.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

[Signature]

Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman