

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Room
Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: Randall Huffman, Joe Pellegrino, Jeff Ramer, Steve Walko

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Dustin Anderson, Executive Assistant, Selectmen's Office; Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief; Amy Siebert, Commissioner; Alan Monelli, Superintendent, Richard Feminella, Waste Water Manager, Public Works; Denise Savageau, Director, Conservation Commission; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development; Eugene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney

Other: Bill Woollacott, Actuary, Hooker & Holcombe, Inc.
Jane K Warren, McCarter & English Law Firm

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

OPEB Actuary Presentation

Mr. Woollacott presented the Town of Greenwich GASB 43/45 Valuation as of July 1, 2010 to the Committee. Mr. Simon shared comments regarding the assumptions, assets and progress made in terms of funding the entire liability, expected growth of healthcare expenses, as well as the accuracy of the report. Mr. Mynarski stated that this was a project emanating from the OPEB Ad-Hoc Committee, when it disbanded, led by Mr. Simon, working with Alison Graham, Mr. Gieger, and Mr. Mynarski, who worked with Mr. Woollacott over the last six months to produce, in his opinion, the most accurate OPEB report in the State. The Annual Required Contribution for FY12 is \$3,722,000 up slightly from the \$3,661,000 for FY11.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

PW-9 DPW – Release of Conditions \$750,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 750,000	to	B345-5960-11131	Central Fire Station
\$ 750,000	from		Release of Funds

Mr. Monelli stated that this is a continuation of the Public Safety contract, specifically the Central Fire Station and gave an overview of the plan. Mr. Monelli also stated that the GEMS Administration, Operations and Training would not fit into the facility. In response to Mr. Mason, Mr. Tesei stated that GEMS is now looking at alternative locations for its operations and training and that the Town should support them in their efforts. Mr. Tesei then gave an overview of the current locations and various site options for GEMS.

A discussion followed regarding plans for GEMS locations, and the Central Fire Station temporary locations, the project timeline and total cost. The three conditions for release are receipt and acceptance of:

1. Plans for the Central Fire Station that describe the building that will be constructed (Demolition of existing Fire Station and construction of a new building with 37,100 gross square feet).
2. Cost Estimate for the building to be constructed (\$20,497,809—costs involved with this building which will make the total cost closer to \$28.2 million).
3. Long Range Plan for GEMS facility needs (this item was discussed and although it is clearer where dispatch locations will be, the site for the administrative and training part of GEMS has not yet been decided).

Funds for the PW-9 appropriation are not being used for the temporary relocation.

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

PW-10 DPW – Release of Conditions \$231,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 231,000	to	Z312-59660-29032	Drainage
\$ 231,000	from		Release of Funds

Ms. Siebert gave an explanation for the request, a description of the Pemberwick Park drain line trash rack, and an overview of the drainage improvement plan on Pemberwick Road and Greenway Drive. To date \$133,447 has been spent on the project. A discussion followed regarding the project timeline, and the selection process. This is the second (and final) request to release the funds from the original \$500,000 FY08-09 Budget appropriation. The release required providing the BET with specific projects instead of a general description of Drainage.

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

CD-4 Community Development – Approval to Use \$68,750

Approval to Use:

\$ 57,450	to	Q19710-59900-21834	Boiler Replacement at Franklin Commons
\$ 11,300	to	Q19710-59900-21835	St. Luke’s LifeWorks Roof Replacement
\$ 68,750	from		Diamond Hill Repayment
			Unexpected Program Income

Ms. Erfe stated that this request is to re-purpose funds that were returned by a sub-recipient, due to an inability to satisfy the terms of the CDBG agreement. A discussion followed regarding applications received and the selection process. Ms. Erfe confirmed that there were no organizations in Greenwich seeking funds with shovel ready projects that could use this money..

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

CC-2 Conservation Commission – Additional Appropriation \$4,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 4,000 to F172-51490 Public Outreach
\$ 4,000 from Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Grant

The Committee voted unanimously to take this item out of order and before PW-9.

Mr. Mason explained that this request has been approved by the RTM, and the resolution has been approved by the BET. Ms. Savageau explained that in January 2010, the Town became a Clean Energy Community and is eligible to apply for grants. This micro-grant will be used for public outreach efforts to the community on energy conservation.

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

Mr. Anderson announced that the First Selectman’s CIP Public Hearing will be held on January 31, 2011, at 7:30 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:48 P.M. to discuss litigation matters.

In attendance were:

Peter Mynarski; Roland Geiger; John Crary; Amy Siebert, Eugene McLaughlin,
Richard Feminella, Jane K. Warren (McCarter & English Law Firm)
Peter Tesei, First Selectman
BET Members: Mason, Finger, Simon, Tarkington, Pellegrino, Ramer,

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 8:32 P.M.

SE-10 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation \$200,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 200,000 to P935-57350 Settlement
\$ 200,000 from Risk Fund Balance

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

NEW BUSINESS

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Gieger presented the Selected Revenues and Spending Rate December 2010 report to the Committee, in which he reported that year to date conveyance tax receipts are 54% of the total year’s budget and building permit receipts are at 82% after only six months. He also reported that spending

is higher this year, however still within the budget. Mr. Gieger was asked to provide a separate quarterly report on revenue and spending rates for non-General funds. A brief discussion followed regarding snow removal funds and possible State reimbursement, and fund balance.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Process Schedule Review

The following changes were approved by the Budget Committee to the FY12 Budget Schedule:

2/4/11 from 2/2/11 Distribute Budget Material
2/16/11 from 2/23/11 Departmental Reviews- Day One (excluding BOE)
2/23/11 from 2/22/11 Finance Department Presentation
2/23/11 from 2/22/11 Capital Budget Review (excluding BOE)

2/25/11 Departmental Reviews-Day Two (excluding BOE) 10:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. instead of 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, December 14, 2010

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2010, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Michael S. Mason, Chairman