



**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**BUDGET PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY2022-2023 BUDGET**

**MINUTES**

Hybrid Virtual & Town Hall Meeting Room  
Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

- Committee: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Nisha Arora, Laura Erickson, Leslie Moriarty
- Board: Dan Ozizmir, Chair; Michael Basham, William Drake, Laura Erickson, Karen Fassuliotis, Miriam Kreuzer, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Stephen Selbst, David Weisbrod
- Selectmen: Fred Camillo, First Selectman; Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman
- Staff: Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney, Law Department; Benjamin Brayan Town Administrator; Daniel Carlsen, Senior. Management Analyst, Office of the First Selectman; Katie DeLuca, Director, Planning & Zoning; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget and Systems Management, Finance Department; Jenny Larkin, Information Technology Department; Blaize Levitan, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation;; James Michel, Deputy Commissioner, Public Works; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Amy Seibert, Commissioner, Department of Public Works; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Abby Wadler, Assistant Town Attorney, Law Department
- BOE/GPS: Kathleen Stowe; Chair, Board of Education (BOE); Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent of Greenwich Public Schools (GPS); Christina Downey, BOE; Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operations Officer, GPS; Laura Kostin, BOE; Karen Kowalski, Vice Chair, BOE; Dan Watson, Director, School Facilities, GPS
- Public: Harry Arora; Ken Borsuk, *Greenwich Time*; Richard Kaufman, *Greenwich Patch*; Michael Mason, Labor Relations Consultant; Alma Rutgers; Leslie Yager, *Greenwich Free Press*

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. and welcomed the audience to presentations by the First Selectman and the Chair of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools of their recommended FY2022-2023 Operations and Capital Budgets.

She introduced members of the Budget Committee and welcomed members of the audience thanking them for attending and their interest in the Town's FY2022-2023 Budget. Ms. Tarkington commented that the presentations will be followed by a Public Hearing and explained how the

public could comment. She encouraged the public to review the schedule of upcoming Budget Committee's February Departmental Review Meetings available on the Town website's and or attend virtually streaming, or live on GCTV Channels 79, 24, and YouTube.

### **First Selectman Recommended Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Presentation**

First Selectman Camillo presented his recommended FY2022-2023 Operating and Capital Budgets as a continuation of services and implementation of projects important to the community, while attentive to the impact of property taxes on residents. He commented that Greenwich is expected to receive \$40,984,540 in funds through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) application and reimbursement program, \$31,399,117 for the Town and \$9,585,423 for the Board of Education. Authority for selecting statutory eligible uses that can meet the rigorous timing and accounting schedule of ARP, will be reviewed for approval by his appointed Committee, the BET and the RTM.

Mr. Camillo reviewed the BET Budget Guidelines and then introduced his recommended FY2022-2023 Budget of \$464,026,952 noting that it reflected a 3.45% increase over the current fiscal year's budget; if passed, the Town's mill rate would increase 2.5%, from 11.590 to 11.868 mills. The presentation included an overview of the Capital Budget, \$70 million for projects plus a portion of the \$26 million capital projects deferred from FY2022 budget for a total of \$87 million that prioritizes maintaining existing assets, focusing on enhancing neighborhoods and soil remediation. Mr. Camillo suggested his major capital projects included Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink and focusing on the scale and scope of future capital projects. He noted that debt service could double and triple in the next 5 through 15-year plan without focusing on the scale and scope of future capital projects and recommended revitalizing the CIP process with a working group and introducing cost avoidance practices. He intends to continue to pursue public/private partnerships as vital contributions to supplement the Capital Budget. The First Selectman suggested that during the Office of the First Selectman's Meeting Day, he would be comment in depth on both the Operating and Capital Budgets and expense drivers.

He encouraged public viewing during February Departmental Budget meetings to become familiar with the factors that will drive decision-making for FY2022-2023 Budget.

### **BOE Chairman and Superintendent of Schools Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Presentation**

Board of Education Chairman Kathleen Stowe presented an overview of BOE's proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 Operating Budget for Greenwich schools of approximately \$176,693,242, an increase of \$4,850,645 or 2.82% over previous year and, a Capital Budget of \$30.265,621 that includes major projects, Annual Infrastructure/Improvements, technology, food service and security. Major budget drivers that increased the Operating Budget beyond the 2.65% BET Budget Guidelines included salaries and other contractual payments, transportation (incremental 10.51% increase), Special Education (incorporating PCG recommendations), summer school, and utilities/services.

Dr. Jones explained how the budget was designed to meet the strategic plan's mission to assist student growth in academic, interpersonal, and personal areas. It emphasizes the quality of Greenwich public schools, student performance and instructional success preparing students for next generation learning. The BOE presentation included comments about enrollment, citing the historical average as 8,790 GPS students, with 2021 enrollments of 8,636 and 2022 enrollments of 8,478 students; the Master Plan and its difference from the current proposed cost-avoidance

renovation process which reduces spending in the next 5 years for Julian Curtiss, Old Greenwich, Riverside and Central Middle Schools by \$108 million or 41%.

Closing with a preview of projects underway, the long term savings from the Eversource Master Plan for lighting of \$3 million to \$4 million with \$678,391 annual savings thereafter. Savings from consolidating many services with Town Departments and community partnerships with local agencies funding functional programs were mentioned. The full BOE presentation on February 3, 2022 will include detailed information on goals and priorities as well as anticipated grant funding.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Ms. Tarkington opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. noting that 455 viewers were attending virtually, with an unknown number viewing live streaming on GCTV Channels 70, 24 and YouTube. Attendee comments will be taken in order hands raised; written comments do not need be repeated. The Forms link will be open through the remainder of this Public Hearing or 11:59 pm, whichever is earlier. All Forms, after redacting private information including email addresses and telephone numbers, will be posted on the BET Budget Committee web page for the Presentation and Public Hearing.

Ms. Erickson will call out the names of the speaker, and then the follow-on speaker who should be prepared to speak next. Speakers will be given access to the audio and will be muted thereafter. There will be no speaker video. Public Speakers are limited to 3 minutes on the Zoom clock to count down from 3 minutes to dead stop

The following speakers addressed the Committee:

- Patty Roberts, Riverside resident: spoke in opposition to Interstate 95 projects that did not include noise barriers adjacent to the highway in noise-sensitive areas.
- Mary Tobin – Old Greenwich Elementary School parent and RTM D-6 Education Committee member: spoke in support of \$1.5 million budgeted for renovation of Old Greenwich School because of wastewater inflow, ventilation and security; spoke in support of \$1.5 million budgeted for Julian Curtiss School for its renovation.
- Anthony Moor – RTM D-7 Transportation Committee and Vice Chairman Pedal Greenwich: spoke in support of bicycle trail construction for local transportation and recreation, for students riding bicycles to school, for bicycle teaching programs at schools, and a bicycle structure at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center.
- Jennifer Bencivengo – Educator, Old Greenwich School: spoke in support of a feasibility study for Old Greenwich School that would include ADA, HVAC, lighting for student health and safety.
- William Stowell - Cos Cob Elementary School special education teacher: spoke in favor of elevator and ADA accessibility for physically impaired students. He filed a lawsuit with Office of Civil Rights, and encouraged that remediation be prioritized prior to civil rights litigation.
- Bob Cheney – Julian Curtiss students' parent and PTA member: spoke in support of renovation and structural changes to Julian Curtiss School and the addition of a pre-school; spoke in favor of renovation to Central Middle School.

- Greg Piccininno – Riverside GPS parent: spoke in support of increasing mill rate and using property taxes to accelerate the renewal Greenwich Public Schools; spoke in opposition to I-95 improvements that do not include noise barrier construction.
- Carey Bisbee – Co-President PTA Riverside: spoke in support of better maintenance at Riverside, Old Greenwich and Julian Curtiss Elementary Schools.
- Sean Mayer – Cos Cob resident: spoke in support of I-95 noise barriers for students' health and learning ability due to excessive noise.
- Katie DeLuca – Director, Greenwich Planning & Zoning: spoke in support of Glenville Center traffic project, public/private partnerships; beautification and enhancement of neighborhoods; spoke in support of request to increase headcount in Planning & Zoning Department of one FT and one PT employees due to changes in job descriptions.
- Erica Jacoby – PTA President, Old Greenwich School: spoke in support of approving BOE Capital Budget.
- F. Alvarez – Greenwich resident and RTM District 12 member: spoke in support of increasing P&Z Department staffing to respond to 8-30G construction projects.
- Joseph Kantorski – Byram Neighborhood Association Chairman: spoke in opposition to I-95 construction projects without adequate noise barriers and sending a noise recording to the Department of Transportation to demonstrate the current excessive noise levels. He suggested taxing retail sales of truck and car tires to pay for noise barriers.
- Tom Healy – Principal, Central Middle School: spoke in support of BOE Budget, BOE 5-year prioritization of renovation of Julian Curtiss, Riverside, Old Greenwich Elementary Schools and Central Middle School and commitment to either tear down or renovate CMS.
- Jane Sprung – District 10 RTM member: spoke in support of BET debt policy and to be fiscally responsible; a cost/benefit study of Greenwich Avenue parking before making new changes; in support of relocating BOE Havemeyer administration to new location; spoke in support of the quality of Town services.
- Gabriele Infante – Old Greenwich resident: spoke in support of BOE implementing accessibility for physically challenged students at Old Greenwich School.
- Janice Merrill: 20 years Greenwich resident: spoke in support of I-95 noise mitigation against excessive noise impacting quality of life and health.
- Wynn McDaniel – Lifelong Greenwich resident and Chair RTM District 7: spoke in support of zoning enforcement officers because short term rentals necessitates full time enforcement and current staff can't keep up with the growth.
- Brian Zeller - Central Middle School, PTA: spoke in support of BOE Capital Budget, improvements at Central Middle School, a plan for replacing poor and deteriorating facilities at all Greenwich Public Schools.
- Candace Garthwaite – Old Greenwich resident: spoke in support of increasing pickle ball facilities in Greenwich parks; spoke in support of safe sidewalk project for Shore Road in Old Greenwich.

- Sam Sullivan – parent of Old Greenwich and Central Middle School students: spoke in opposition to the poor health and security issues and school building deterioration that is not up to standards for a town like Greenwich.
- Jody Stuart – Wellness Specialist: spoke in support of additional pickle ball courts in Greenwich parks.
- Frederick Putnam – Greenwich resident: spoke in support of the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink, long term improvements to access route and rearranging the baseball field site to expand rink location.
- Hillary Haroche - RTM D-10: spoke in opposition to the bump outs and loss of 29 parking spaces on Greenwich Avenue for beautification rationale; in support of fiscal spending that makes sense.
- Kathleen Yu – District 8, parent of students in GHS and Central Middle School: spoke in support of school repairs to structural integrity issues of potentially catastrophic proportions including Old Greenwich and Julian Curtiss Schools.
- David Levine: spoke in support of BOE Budget, \$1.5 million to renovate conditions at Julian Curtiss School, and not recognized for its contribution as a magnet and Title 1 School.
- Jennifer Behette – Co-President, Central Middle School PTA: spoke in opposition to the safety conditions at CMS, and in support of the staff and curriculum.
- Randi Jachino – parent of Julian Curtiss School student: spoke in support of the advantages of a Title One school in the community, and in opposition to the status of the infrastructure in GPS and spoke in support of BOE Operating and Capital Budgets.
- Allison Maus – Co-President Riverside School PTA; spoke in support of renovation projects at Julian Curtiss and Old Greenwich Schools.
- Kathleen Brady – Special Education Representative on PTAC: spoke in support of the Special Education audit recommendations, Action Plan to develop students’ full potential and dedicating financial support for the Action Plan.
- John Spang: spoke in support of the skating rink and naming opportunities to accelerate the implementation of construction.
- Abbe Large – Co-Chair Glenville Community Task Force and RTM District 9 member: spoke in support of the Glenville corridor initiatives and CMAQ project, and public/private partnership.
- Laura Kostin - member Board of Education: spoke in support of BOE Budget, increasing safety, ADA accessibility, and air quality at Julian Curtiss, Old Greenwich and Central Middle Schools.

- Michael Chambers; spoke in support of Julian Curtiss educational environment and in opposition to the maintenance of the building. He encouraged the Town to fully fund its crumbling school buildings.
- Ashley Cole – resident Hillside Road and member of the GHS Entry Building Committee: spoke in support of the second traffic egress from the High School property.
- Maggie Bound: spoke in support of Old Greenwich and Shore Road sidewalks.
- Peter Sherr – former BOE member: spoke of declining enrollment and stagnation in achievement and to fully fund BOE budget at Guidelines; in support of addressing changes to return GPS facilities to excellence with fully funding improvements at Old Greenwich School, resize and properly size Julian Curtiss School project and accelerate CMS project.
- James Walsh – Cos Cob resident: spoke in support of I-95 noise abatement, need 21<sup>st</sup> century buildings, and in support of Julian Curtiss, Riverside and CMS schools ADA accessibility.
- Susan Foster – Co-President, Riverside Association; spoke in support of I-95 noise abatement and suggested sharing cost of noise barriers with the State of Connecticut.
- Jenni Reynolds – Special Education teacher; spoke in support of student civil right to be in regular classrooms with individualized programs.
- Dustin Downey: spoke in support of Old Greenwich Shore Road Sidewalk Project and properties ceding rights of way to increase value of their properties.
- Ramya Hopley – RTM D-10; spoke in support for continued need for fiscal responsibility.
- James Waters – RTM D-12, Finance and BOC Committees; spoke in support of BOE budgets because residents want improvements to school buildings; he spoke in support of a better CIP process to prioritize, and better process from A&E to construction and identifying alternative education space during renovations, and operating budget.
- Roland Leonard: spoke in support of sidewalks for safety along Old Greenwich Shore Road and Sound Beach Avenue.
- Arline Lomazzo – RTM D-6 38 years; speaking in support of remediation of wastewater plumbing in Old Greenwich Elementary School; in support of rebuilding Central Middle School; in support of Shore Road Sidewalks.
- Janet McMahon – RTM D-8, 2 students in in Greenwich Public Schools: spoke in support of renovation of poor school facilities, installing ADA accessibility, and improving air quality for the safety, health and wellbeing of students.
- Clare Kilgallen – Byram resident: spoke in support of BOE capital projects, additional staff for P&Z, GPS qualitative testing reputation, don't defer maintenance and support improvements to Julian Curtiss, Old Greenwich and Central Middle Schools.

- Diana Orbanowski – parent GHS student: spoke in support of remediating poor conditions at GPS and safety at CMS.
- David Izzo; RTM Finance Committee member; spoke in support of BOE Capital Budget and capital investment in GPS.
- Francis Wu Nobay: spoke in opposition to current condition of GPS facilities, and full funding of GPS.
- Elizabeth Dempsey, 20 year resident: spoke in support of second egress road from GHS property as a safety issue.
- Kara Mendelsohn: spoke in support of BOE budget and increasing safety environment at North Mianus, Julian Curtiss, Old Greenwich and Central Middle Schools.
- Alex Popp – District 4 RTM member; spoke in support to delay Julian Curtiss as enrollment is declining over last 4 years; only 193 students live in zone, while ed specs indicate 325.
- Lucia Jansen – RTM D-7, Chair of BOC: spoke in support of the BET Budget Guidelines and RTM BOC FY23 budget letter in the environment of inflations, price increases and budget issues; First Selectman’s proposed budget exceeds Guidelines and BOC letter.
- Molly Saleeby – RTM D-8: spoke in support of improvements to Central Middle School building; students first.

In addition to the Public Hearing comments, under the Governor’s Executive Orders the following residents completed the Public Hearing Form linked to the Town website Agenda for the meeting. Comments were accepted through the close of the Public Hearing. A link is provided to completed forms together with the link to the meeting Minutes.

## **INDIVIDUALS WHO SUBMITTED FORMS**

Aitken, Rob; Allen, Amada; Armstrong, Michael; Baez, Angela; Berendowski, Megan; Bodenstein, Ken; Bolstroff, Kristin; Bound, Maggie; Bound, Simon; Brady, Kathleen; Brown, Tracy; Burnett, Rob; Burton, Gia; Carter, Chiara; Chaney, Bob; Cooper, Rebecca; Cooper, Kathryn; Cosloy, Jessica; Crumbine, Beatrice; Cryer, C. Michelle; Dawson, Cristina; Delany, B. Cort; Dimroci, Maggie; Downey, Dustin; Ernst, Jill; Gisholt, Zaharoula; Grad, Kim; Grant, Gwyn; Guttin, Matthew; Harris, Timothy; Hassani-Sadi, Eric; Horgan, Mark; Horgan, Michelle; Iantosca, Cecilia; Jachino, Randi; Jackson, Katie; Johann, Barbara (2); Joetner, Jill; Justus, Elizabeth; Kelly, Lindsay; Kostovic, Ana; Kysar, Revecca; Lane, Vera; Large, Abbe; Lee, Helene; Lessard, Roland; Levine, David; Lindia, Nina; Lopez, Oneyda; MacDonald, Barbara; Madden, Phyllis; Malkin, Peter; Marx, Peggy; Mawji, Anuja; McCormick, Laura; McShane, Karin; Mecky, Debra; Messer, Neile; Meyer, Sarah; Mizrahi, Roni; Moor, Anthony; Mucci, Jarrett; Murphy, Courtney; Newi, Ashley; Niklaus, Dianne; Oberg, Catie; O’Connor, Whitney; O’Donohue, Virginia; Ogden, Ross; Ormsby, David; Osugi, Yuko; Papademetriou, Demetris; Petrausch, Erin; Piccinino, Gregory; Pierson, Elizabeth; Pogemiller, Stephanie; Popp, Alex (4); Prasad, Bonnie; Putnam, Frederic; Redler, Zachary; Resnick, Chryl; Roberts, Patty; Rockwell, Elizabeth; Russel, Robert; Ryan, Leigh; Sanogueira, Cori; Schaefer Glebas, Carolyn; Schraff, Janine; Senter, Helen; Sheridan, Fifi; Simonsen, Scott;

Spilman, Denise; Stuart, Jodi; Sullivan, Laura; Talbot, Bevan; Tsatsonis, Hannah; Tynan, Melissa; Urso, Dina; Vos, Adam; Waters, James; Weinstein, Katie; Whitridge, Linda; Williams, Sarah; Williams, Andrew J.; Windle, Paige; Witten, Katie; Wold, David; Worden, Michael

Ms. Tarkington thanked the Budget Committee for their support and speakers for their interest and comments. She remarked that the Budget Committee looks forward to the Department Review meetings on the FY2023 Budget to continue offering services that make Greenwich the best place to live, raise a family, start a business or retire.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



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Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair, Budget Committee