

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

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW FY2020-2021 - DAY #1 MINUTES

**Town Hall Meeting Room – 10:00 A.M.
Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

Present:

Committee: Leslie Tarkington, Chair; Debra Hess, Leslie Moriarty, Jeffrey S. Ramer

Staff: Robert Barry, Captain, Police Department (Dept.); LuAnn Bellantoni, Manager, Parking Fund; Benjamin Branyan, Town Administrator; Patrick Collins, Environmental Engineer, Holly Hill/Public Works Dept. (DPW); Angela Gencarelli, Assistant Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Dept.; Roland Gieger, Budget Director, Finance Dept.; Kraig Gray, Captain, Police Dept; Gregory Hannigan, Director, General Services, Police Dept.; James Heavey, Chief, Police Dept.; Blaise Levitan, Business Analyst, OFS; Mark Marino, Deputy Chief, Police Dept.; Jim Michel, Assistant Commissioner, DPW; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller, Finance Dept.; Larry Roberts, Deputy Chief Training, Fire Dept.; Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs; Amy Siebert, Commissioner, DPW

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chairman; William Drake, Andreas Duus, Laura Erickson, Karen Fassuliotis, Miriam Kreuzer, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, David Weisbrod

Selectmen: Fred Camillo, First Selectman; Jill Oberlander, Select-Person

RTM: Josh Brown, (D-1), Labor Contracts Committee (Cmte.); John Eddy, (D-8); Lucia Jansen, (D-7), Chair, BOC; Danyal Ozizmir, (D-5), Vice Chair, BOC, Chair, Labor Contracts Cmte.; Bruce Pflug, (D-5), BOC and Finance Cmtes.; Molly Saleeby, (D-8), BOC Cmte.

Other: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Berrin Snyder

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. After introducing members of the Committee and welcoming the audience, she began the first meeting to listen to Department Heads present their Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budgets.

Office of the First Selectman

First Selectman Camillo provided an overview of his recommended FY2020-2021 \$457,583,152 Budget, noting that it reflected an overall increase of 3.02% over the previous year to be supported by a Mill Rate increase of 2.53%. Town Administrator Branyan summarized anticipated expenses as an increase of 2.67% in Operating and 5.57% in Capital expenses. He noted that Fixed Charges increases for Health Care and the Pension Contribution and the School Lunch program were the primary drivers in this category.

Operations - In the review of the Operating Budget, the \$980,000 increase for the Town departments primarily reflects the \$600,000 increase in the MOC100s. Overall, the budget includes increases in salaries, waste removal charges, and bank fees. The offsets for increases include a 4.0 full time positions headcount reduction including Greenwich Avenue traffic officers' elimination. The Budget includes a reduction of TOG's contribution to The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW) budget to provide the challenge for it to find savings. The proposed budget includes the pay-as-you-throw initiative to reduce the volume of solid waste by shifting the increased waste disposal cost from the Town to residents and businesses. Public Private Partnerships will continue to be pursued. There was a discussion of other items for a better understanding of both the increased revenues and managed expense increases that would contribute to balancing the FY2020-2021 Budget.

Capital Budget - Capital Budget projects include a cybersecurity program covering the Town, Libraries, The Nathaniel Witherell and BOE; GHS soil remediation projects; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center planning funds; the Dorothy Hamill Rink planning funds, Cardinal Field improvements, Central Middle School Field improvements and Julian Curtis School planning funds. Referring to previously approved projects, there are \$82.6 million in Town open appropriations. Encumbered Capital Projects were discussed and included Greenwich High School fields 6 & 7, the Town-wide radio project, upgrades to the Round Hill Fire Station, the Police Pistol Range, Binney Park, and improvements to the Arch Street intersection.

There was a discussion about Nathaniel Witherell, changes in police department staffing, pay-as-you-throw program, tipping fees alternative, management of the cybersecurity initiative, impact of change in Town Attorney, energy conservation efforts, better use of technology, labor relations position, Aquarion open space land acquisition. Discussion of TNW was deferred until its scheduled presentation on February 7 when the First Selectman and Mr. Branyan would join.

Police Department

Operations - Chief Heavey provided a review of police staffing from recruiting to retention and retirement. He described the volume and diversity of calls from emergencies to service and the response time from the Town-wide network of vehicle locations. He indicated average response time to a 911 call was under 4 minutes and under 11 minutes for a non-emergency call. He said they deploy officers in a 13-squad system but are considering a 4-squad system. The Committee requested a comparison of crime incidents over a period of several years for a better understanding of the impact of reducing traffic police and the substitution of uniform and plain clothes patrols on Greenwich Avenue. When questioned, the Chief suggested a delay to the change in Greenwich Avenue traffic control for 6-months to one year would allow for a traffic study and the installation and evaluation of the effectiveness of traffic-calming initiatives. The Committee also asked about diversity representation in the department, training requirements, use of hybrid vehicles, use of motorcycles, impact of change to Defined Contribution plan on recruitment, side job revenue, continuation of grant opportunities.

Capital Budget - The Committee reviewed open appropriations; and proposed projects.

Parking Services

Operations - Deputy Chief Marino updated the Committee on a change in staff including a new fulltime manager, and reconfiguring of responsibilities. He introduced LuAnn Bellantoni, Business Services Manager. He noted that the Finance Department feedback on revenue reporting and training confirm the improvements and progress being made since the recent Internal Audit.

Parking Services predicted increased revenues resulting from increasing rates that had not been adjusted since 2007. Projected revenues in the proposed budget do not reflect the recently approved higher rates. He noted the implementation of the ParkMobile app and the use of the app, pay-by-phone or multispace meter options, discontinuance of the parking cards, which can no longer be reloaded, converting some parking lots to long term and retail merchant parking, the new State sales tax on parking fees, and the discontinuance of consulting service fees.

Capital Budget - Ms. Tarkington asked that Parking Service review its encumbered projects for closeouts. A list of Capital Projects such as installation of kiosk shelters, line striping, repaving and parking lot lighting and phone installation were requested to be reviewed for the Committee before Consolidation Day. The Committee asked to be provided with an updated Organizational Chart and spreadsheet of revenue projections anticipated from the parking fee rate increases. Concern was expressed about the possibility of depleting the Parking Fund balance and requested that a revised Parking Services revenues and costs statement be provided.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Operations - Commissioner Siebert commented that DPW was in the process of preparing a multi-year budget to better reflect long-term projects currently in the Cornerstone software program and being transferred to Muncipity software. It is anticipated that Muncipity will improve inspection scheduling of building construction, sewer and highway projects, with the online scheduling tool currently being tested. The Committee asked how traffic planning was projecting new infrastructure needs. Assistant Commissioner Michel responded that in addition to capital projects already planned, traffic volume was being monitored considering recent pedestrian fatal accidents. Ms. Tarkington noted a 2.4% increase in Operations Budget not including a -3.6% reduction in Highway Traffic Operations in the Parking Fund.

Capital Budget - Ms. Siebert commented that she was preparing a separate list of open items, items being closed out and a summary of appropriated money to be returned. The Committee asked for an update on the unencumbered funds and other written questions submitted by the BET.

Waste Management

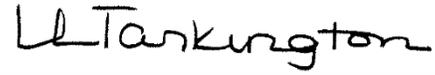
Operations - First Selectman Camillo described the current solid waste disposal process and asked the Committee to review the economics of the pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) initiative on the OFS portion of the website. He noted that the increasing cost of solid waste disposal and the new charges for disposal of recyclables called for a new approach to waste management and is proposing the adoption of the PAYT solution. Referring to the "tipping fee" alternative proposal, Mr. Camillo described the favorable environmental impact of PAYT and the potential negative impact on small haulers as additional reasons he preferred the PAYT solution. He summarized that the key is to incentivize to generate less waste. The Committee asked questions about the financial assumptions for PAYT in the budget, including the reduced solid waste volume, the increased recyclables volume, commercial vs residential assumptions, the structure of the arrangement with WasteZero, the timing, the approval process including the proposed Ordinance, and roll-out of the plan.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Leslie Tarkington, Budget Committee Chair