

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW FY2020-2021 DAY #4 MINUTES**

**Town Hall Meeting Room – 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

Present:

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

Staff: Katie DeLuca, Director of Planning and Zoning/Zoning Enforcement Coordinator/Town Planner, Planning & Zoning Department (Dept.); Jay Domeseck, Director, Fleet Dept.; Angela Gencarelli, Ass't Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Dept.; Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Director; Finance Dept.; Tom Greco, Ass't Director, Parks & Recreation (P&R) Dept.; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller, Finance Dept.; Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs; Joseph Siciliano, Director, P&R Dept.

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

RTM: Candace Garthwaite (D-6), Chair; Lucia Jansen, (D-7), Budget Overview Committee (BOC), Chair; Danyal Ozizmir, (D-5), BOC, Vice Chair, Labor Contracts Committee, Chair

Other: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Parks & Recreation Department

Introduction - Parks and Recreation Department Director Siciliano commented that the Department's Operating Budget increased 1.35%, \$153,000 over previous year. He announced that a new fee structure would be in-place for FY2020-2021 that would increase revenue by \$200,000, which was not yet represented in the proposed budget. Staffing costs included wages for permanent part time, part time and seasonal employees that will increase to meet the new minimum wage standard, which will be \$131,000 by 2024. He noted energy conservation efforts including efficiencies that would result from the installation of outdoor LED lighting at tennis, paddle tennis, Grass Island and Cos Cob; the replacement of propane fuel with electricity for vehicles, chain saws and leaf blowers. Mr. Siciliano announced that a gift of about \$1.3-\$1.5 million has been pledged by the Greenwich Point Conservancy and the Fedorko Foundation to be shared by P&R and DPW for the repair of the Greenwich Point Chimes Tower. The construction, future maintenance, and utilities will be a turnkey donation. Other donations are anticipated as a result of the First Selectman's Public Private Partnership initiative including a soon to be announced donation for the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center (EGCC). The Committee

asked if public private partnership policy and standards have been developed. Mr. Siciliano indicated the Fields Study is ongoing with the report to identify a 3-7 year plan for field improvements. The Study is expected to take 4-6 months and will evaluate playability, allocation methods, amenities, ADA access, field conditions.

Operations - Mr. Siciliano commented a contract was in-place for professional service consulting for software that will enhance the Department's current RecTrak program software to upgrade it to accommodate the vision of one Town card that can be programed this year for fees for tennis, golf, the beaches, the Library and additional applications for next year. The Department's credit card bank fees will be shifted to the Finance Department to support the use of credit cards without negatively incentivizing each department with the expense. In response to a question, Mr. Siciliano noted the department has 2 tree crews plus outsourced capability as needed. The Committee asked for a chart of recreation usage statistics and a revenue forecast of profit/loss to better assess P&R programs.

Capital Budget - The Committee discussed the Department's \$8 million of open and encumbered funds and the details and prioritization of its list of new Capital Projects:

- Appropriation of \$75,000 for a study of Greenwich Fields managed by a Committee of representatives from BOE, GPS, and P&R.
- EGCC – currently developing plans for municipal improvement. Current design is for 35,900 square foot building to replace the 34,000 square foot building. Cost estimate for the building project is \$17 million. Estimated time to build is 24 months.
- Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink project – plan to bid for architectural services to develop a design based on the feasibility study for a 40,000 square foot building (vs 34,000 square foot existing). The issue of renovation vs replacement has not been determined, with issues of the two-year construction period, cost, final decision on features, etc.
- Removal of P&R building from the Roger Sherman Baldwin Park waterfront being contingent upon a Master Plan for the whole concept and a sequence of work.
- Repair of Greenwich Point Causeway.
- Repair of retaining wall adjacent to Greenwich Point Marina.
- Dredging of Byram Marina.
- Dredging of an Arch Street channel parallel to Federal harbor channel dredging.
- Installation of an extension to Captain's Island Ferry Dock.
- ADA accessibility to the Ferry, ferry docks and at least one marina.
- Beach sand replacement at Island and Byram beaches.
- Playground upgrades and GPS landscaping maintenance
- Improved Stormwater management at 6 locations.
- Trees at Risk Study inclusive of a maintenance survey and collaborative work with Eversource.

Fleet

Operations - Fleet Director Domeseck commented that departmental salaries were down due to the elimination of one day-time mechanic shift; the decrease in contracted fuel costs until October 2020 when the contract is re-bid; and the reduction of supply purchases.

Capital Budget - The Committee questioned the Department's capital encumbered of \$485 thousand and available of \$1.2 million and it was identified that funds were expected to be used to outfit Police vehicles currently not in-use due to delayed delivery. Other vehicles requested to

be added to the Town's fleet include a sewer camera van, a mini-excavator, replacement of one police motorcycle, a fire engine, two new police cars, and replacement of fifteen other vehicles.

Planning & Zoning

Operations - Planning & Zoning Director DeLuca commented that the operating budget had been decreased by cutting the Zoning Board of Appeals document imaging program for older files; savings due to an open Housing Specialist position; and the remainder in the POCD budget. She did identify the need for additional funding in the Temporary Salary line for a housing specialist.

Capital Budget - The P&Z Commission envisions a need for increasing moderate income housing. Among its priority projects is a continuation of individualizing the Town's communities with Gateway signage to support the "place-making" village program concept. Engaging Town residents' talents and enthusiasm through neighborhood associations is designed to minimize consulting costs that can be better used for micro-local projects. One of P&Z's initiatives will be green scaping of the Post Road to merge the needs of residents with businesses (i.e., the car dealerships.) Plans for enhancing Greenwich Avenue include collaboration with DPW on refreshing the streetscape to showcase the scale and individuality of building architecture and increasing shoppers' parking capacity; she noted the importance of the "cops on the Avenue" to enhance its charm.

Conservation & Inland Wetlands and Waterways Administration (IWWA)

Operations - Environmental Affairs Director Sesto commented that the consolidation of the Inland Wetlands and Waterways Agency (IWWA) and the Conservation Commission was working well and there are synergies to having the two departments together. She noted the difference in operating models: IWWA is self-sustaining through fees and Conservation is funded as a Department that implements regulatory policy. IWWA works through applications and Conservation through enforcement.

Capital Budget - The Committee reviewed the Department's open encumbered and available capital balance items and asked when work would be completed. The Department will collaborate with P&R Department to implement repairs of the Greenwich Point Causeway. Open Space is also under the purview of the Conservation Commission, which budgets funding for the acquisition of land. Ms. Sesto used the pending divestiture by Aquarian Water Company of 80 acres of excess land as an example of Greenwich's ability to acquire open space through right of first refusal. The purchase of 72 acres will be funded with \$1 million from the Town and \$1 million from the Greenwich Land Trust. Greenwich Land Trust will hold title, protect it from development, and maintain the property, with the Town having an overlay easement to provide resident access to the walking trails. The purchase ensures public access to open space and conserves 72 acres of land, while the Town's overlay easement provides maintenance through the Land Trust.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

LTarkington

Leslie Tarkington, Committee Chair