

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, February 6, 2012

Committee

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

Board: Robert Brady, Sean Goldrick, Marc Johnson, Mary Lee Kiernan, Michael Mason

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo

Staff: Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Dustin Anderson, Administrative Manager, Selectmen's Office; Roger Lulow, Superintendent; Stacey Gross, Assistant Superintendent; Benjamin Branyan, Managing Director of Operations; Kim Eves, Director of Communications; Joseph Siciliano, Director; Tom Greco, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; Amy Siebert, Commissioner, Public Works; Denise Savageau, Director, Conservation

Other: Leslie Moriarty, Chairman, Board of Education

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

PROPOSED BUDGET FY2012-2013

Mr. Tesei presented the Town's proposed FY 2012-2013 Budget to the Committee.

Ms. Moriarty and Dr. Lulow presented the Board of Education's proposed FY2012-2013 budget to the Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing session was called to order at 6:54 P.M.

Mr. Pellegrino gave brief instructions regarding the Public Hearing session, requesting that the speakers state the part of the town in which they live and limit their comments to three minutes.

Ann Miller, Cos Cob; President, Jr. League – In support of Byram Pool Project, sharing comments regarding the history of the project, a public/private partnership, fundraising, and the Town's priorities.

Paul Pugliese, Old Greenwich; – In support of Byram Pool Project, sharing comments regarding funds needed to develop A&E and design drawings in order to begin fundraising to offset the Town's contribution to the project overall.

Dana Whammond, Old Greenwich; Chairman, Byram Pool Project – Presented a packet to the Committee for review, which included an overview of the Byram Pool Committees' efforts over the past year, and letters in support of Byram Pool Project. Ms. Whammond also shared comments regarding the community necessity, and fundraising goals.

Mr. Pellegrino stated that a letter from Karen Fassuliotis, who was unable to attend this public hearing and is opposed to the Byram Pool Project, will be distributed to the BET members for review.

Valerie Stauffer, Chairman, RTM District 7 – Shared comments urging spending restraints concerning capital projects, consideration of other locations for a public pool, is opposed to the Byram Pool Project, and shared concerns regarding maintaining the triple A rating.

Lisa Beth Savitz, President, PTA Council – In support of the BOE Budget. Shared comments regarding additional funding needed for improvements to the school lunch program, facilities, the achievement gap and early childhood education.

Anthony Medico, Glenville; Assistant Chief, Glenville Volunteer Fire Department – Offered assistance upon the BET's review of major object code 208, Fire Department Administration Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, and shared comments concerning the support and representation of the volunteer firefighters.

Bill Gorgas, Central Greenwich; RTM District 7 – Shared concerns regarding the CIP and debt, opposing new major projects or additional borrowing. Mr. Gorgas shared comments regarding borrowing, the triple A rating, and the escalation of the operating and capital budgets.

Jennifer Meredith and Laura Erickson, Co-Presidents, GHS PTA – Shared comments in support of the BOE budget and recognized the efforts of the schools' administration, the selectmen, and the BET.

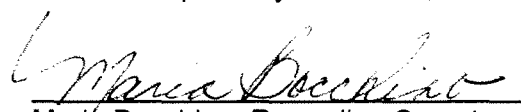
Peter Quigley, RTM District 7 – Shared comments regarding funding Capital projects without proper vetting of the environmental hazards and contaminants in the soil, and the costs involved due to possible fines, remediation, as well as future unknown costs. Mr. Quigley suggested meeting Federal and State regulations prior to funding Capital projects.

Donald Conway, RTM District 2 – Shared comments in support of dredging the Cos Cob Marina.

Mr. Pellegrino also distributed a letter from Richard Kriskey, Chairman, Board of Assessment Appeals, to the BET members for review.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary


Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman