TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Room
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Committee:
Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington
Board: Jim Campbell, Randall Huffman, William Kelly, Art Norton, Joseph Pellegrino, Jeffrey Ramer, Stephen Walko
Ex-Officio
Board Member: First Selectman Peter Tesei
Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Al Monelli, Superintendent, Building Construction & Maintenance, DPW; Joseph Siciliano, Director; Tom Greco, Manager, Business Services Operations, Parks & Recreation; Dave D’Andrea, Operations Manager, Griffith E. Harris Golf Course; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development

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

Requests for Budget Adjustments

PR-3 Parks & Recreation – Release of Conditions - $100,000

Mr. Monelli reported on the status of the golf course administration building construction project. Mr. Siciliano gave an overview of the funding for this project and the loan payment process.

Release of Conditions:
$ 100,000 to M824-59560-28084 Golf Course Admin Bldg
$ 100,000 from Appropriation

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

CD-3 Community Development – Additional Appropriation - $4,444

Ms. Erfe explained that the funds are to be used for a repair project at the First United Methodist Church building which is leased to Community Centers, Inc. These funds come from a contingency of slightly more than $48,000. Unused contingency is reprogrammed in the following year.

$ 4,444 to Q19708-59900-28222 UMC-CCI Building Rehab
The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Process Discussion

Mr. Mason stated that any and all questions for Department heads, other than the Board of Education, should be submitted to Mr. Gieger by Monday, February 15, 2010. A discussion followed regarding the scheduling of the Departmental hearings, questions to be asked, and setting agendas.

OLD BUSINESS

Workers’ Compensation Discussion

Mr. Mason thanked Mr. Mynarski for last month’s presentation concerning Workers Compensation and asked Mr. Mynarski, as part of the Finance Department’s budget discussions, for a suggestion of where to start to address the issue.

Mr. Simon stated that this is a multi-faceted issue that will take several months to address. If the BET makes a lot of progress in the upcoming year, it will be doing very well. The many facets to this problem should be parceled out to the appropriate BET committees, to avoid overlap of duties and to share responsibilities and workload.

BET Budget Committee Monthly Topics

Mr. Mason recommended additions to the schedule of monthly Budget Committee topics for 2010. Additional topics for presentation and/or discussion will be construction policies, the Historical Society, and external entities. In response to Mr. Mason, Mr. Mynarski gave an update of the RFP process regarding shared services. Mr. Simon suggested looking at the financial implications of the POCD implementation to try to understand what costs the Town might incur in the future, as well as to have a more in depth discussion of Revenues at one of the monthly committee meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, January 20, 2010
The Committee deferred action on the minutes from the January 20, 2010, Regular Budget Committee Meeting because the corrected version was not in the package.

**Finance Department Presentation**

**Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions**

Mr. Gieger gave an explanation of the updated report regarding spending rates and revenues. A discussion followed regarding conveyance taxes, building permit fees, interest, unexpected revenues, shortfalls, fund balance, and the snow removal budget. Mr. Gieger reached the following conclusions which will be used in the FY11 Budget Discussions:

1. Conveyance Taxes will reach $4.2 million for a $300,000 shortfall. $3.8 million is budgeted for FY11.
2. Building Permits will reach $3.0 million for a $900,000 shortfall. $3.0 million is budgeted for FY11.
3. Interest will reach $500,000 for a $1.0 million shortfall. $1.0 million is budgeted next year.
4. The total shortfall of $2.2 million will be made up by $1.5 million in bridge reimbursement ($900,000 received to date), $300,000 from the sale of land on Holly Hill Lane, $250,000 received to date for CRRA reimbursement and an additional $150,000 expected to be received this fiscal year from CRRA. Not counted in this year’s revenue is the additional $650,000 anticipated from the State for Hamilton Avenue School reimbursement as well as $350,000 for Cos Cob Power Plant remediation. Those funds remain unbudgeted and most likely will be part of the FY11 fund balance.
5. Costs continue to run close to last year’s total which would leave a fund balance of $8 million. However, with the extra school payroll for $3,000,000 not yet paid, the current estimate of $5.9 million is a reasonable estimate for FY11.

**Finance Department Revenue Presentation**

Mr. Mynarski presented the proposed Revenue FY11 Budget to the Committee. A discussion followed regarding the Grand List and credits and exemptions to the Grand List, Nathaniel Witherell revolving fund, conveyance tax, credits and exemptions, education cost sharing, bridge reimbursements, parking violations, the Peterson Foundation, the PILOT program, property taxes, and sewer taxes.

**Finance Department Fixed Charges Presentation**

Mr. Mynarski presented the Finance Department’s proposed Fixed Charges FY11 Budget ($98,650,572) to the Committee. A discussion followed regarding Social Security (FICA) calculations, healthcare costs, defined benefit and defined contribution plans, workers compensation, and insurance.
There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman