



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

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Hybrid Virtual and Town Hall Meeting Room

Committee

Present: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Nisha Arora, Laura Erickson, Leslie Moriarty

Staff: Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Jenny Larkin, IT Department; Blaize Levitan, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department; Alan Monelli, Superintendent, Building Construction & Maintenance, DPW; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Luigi Romano, Project Manager, Building Construction and Maintenance, Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation Department; Barbara Schoenberg, Town Attorney

Board: Dan Ozizmir, Chairman; Karen Fassuliotis, Jeffrey S. Ramer

Guests: Ryan Chmielewski, Consultant, Weston Simpson Engineers, Inc.

Other: Ken Borsuk, Journalist, *Greenwich Time*; Don Conway, GCTV.

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of Leal Strategy for pending litigation for the following matters:

Town of Greenwich v. Lowry
Justin Sawyer v. Holly Giordano et al
Kordick v. Town of Greenwich, et al
Zarzecki v. Town of Greenwich

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to enter Executive Session at 1:07 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Executive Session Closed

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to close the Executive Session at 1:53 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Request for Budget Adjustments

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
BA-1	Board of Assessment Appeals	\$3,500	Additional Appropriation
	A136 51300		Temporary Salaries

Mr. Mynarski presented Mark Pruner's, Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, request for an additional appropriation of \$3,500 for temporary salaries for additional clerical assistance in anticipation of a higher volume of residential appeals following the 2021 Grand List Property Revaluation.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve an additional appropriation of \$3,500 for clerical assistance for Board of Assessment Appeals Hearings, the Committee voted 3-0-1 (Abstain: Erickson) and to recommend it to the full BET as a Routine Application. Motion carried.

ED-7	Board of Education	\$XXXXX	Withdrawn
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PR-1	Parks & Recreation	\$150,000	Release of Conditions
	Z822 2002 22378		Field Master Plan Design

Mr. Levitan requested the release of conditions on \$150,000 to continue work on the Field Master Plan. He indicated that the information requested for the release had been presented during Parks & Recreation's Budget Departmental Review Hearing and described the cost breakout of water table testing, soil sample testing and research for placement of drainage, if necessary. The initial parks selected include: Upper Havemeyer, Moretti, Central Middle School sport field, Binney Park sport field and Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. A Professional Services RFP will be included in this design phase.

The project's landscape architect consultant, Mr. Chmielowski, commented that the completion of this design phase would provide a baseline for each site and would allow prioritization based on findings.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Erickson, to release conditions on the \$150,000 for the Field Master Plan Design phase, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the Application to the full BET as a Routine Application. Motion carried.

PS-1	Parking Services	\$1,000,000	Release of Conditions
	G219 Various		Parking Services Budget

Mr. Gieger restated the Department's year-to-date financial statement after adjusting Parking Service budget accounts initially presented during its Budget Departmental Review Hearing. A lapsed Capital Budget item was also reestablished.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, to release conditions on \$1,000,000 for the Parking Services budget, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the Application to the full BET as a Routine Application. Motion carried.

PW-2	Public Works	\$4,040,000	Additional Appropriation
	B345 56560 22326		Eastern Greenwich CC

Mr. Monelli explained that 12 vendors had responded to the RFB for the rebuilding of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center but even accepting the lowest bidder meant a shortfall of \$4,040,000. After including everything requested by Planning & Zoning and the Architectural Review Board, the Professional Construction Services estimator concurred that the timing of the bidding was responsible for the higher cost beyond Public Works estimates. Discussion centered around that the primary areas of cost increase included the commodity, steel, and that two-thirds of the cost increase by trade was in Earth Works. Ms. Arora would abstain as the bid had gone out during the third and fourth quarter of 2021 when supply/demand for certain materials including steel were at unprecedented highs, and the \$2.6 million for Earth Works did not have a public works estimate at the time of bid required to evaluate the bid item

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Erickson, to approve the additional appropriation of \$4,040,000, the Committee voted 3-0-1 (Abstain: Arora) and to recommend the Application to the full BET as a Non-Routine Application. Motion carried.

FI-2	Finance Department	\$4,040,000	Authorizing Bonding Resolution
	B345 56560 22326		Financing Eastern Greenwich CC

The Bonding Resolution to accompany the Easter Greenwich Civic Center was presented.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to authorize a Bonding Resolution of \$4,040,000 to finance the additional appropriation for the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the Application and forward it to the full BET as a Non-Routine Application.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger reviewed the Town's financial position to date and reported that revenues of Conveyance taxes and Building Permits, although slowing, continued to be strong. He highlighted that revenue was \$800,000 ahead of budget. Tax collection was \$32 million ahead of previous year but noted that the Governor's Executive Orders deferred the deadline for property tax payments until April in 2021. State reimbursement for bridges contributed \$5 million to the total revenue. Expenses included \$10 million in debt service; however, expenses were down \$4 million with the recognition of the bond premium from February 2021.

Chairman Tarkington noted that the Bureau of Labor Statistics cost of living for the area was up 1.1% for the month totaling 5.1% increase for the year.

Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Budget Committee Meeting of January 11, 2022, the BET Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

L. Tarkington

Leslie L. Tarkington, Budget Cmte Chair

The next Regular Meeting of the BET Budget Committee will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 1:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.