



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW FY 2023-2024 DAY 6 MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room – 9:00 A.M.
Thursday, February 16, 2023**

Present:

Committee: Leslie Tarkington, Chair; Nisha Arora, Laura Erickson, Leslie Moriarty

Staff: Adam Ross, Assistant Budget & Systems Manager; Finance Department; Roland Gieger, Budget and Systems Director, Finance; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Don Conway, GCTV; Lauren Elliott, Town Assessor; Robert Wolterstorff, Bruce Museum, Executive Director and CEO; Suzanne Lio, Bruce Museum, Chief Operating and Managing Director; Carolyn Hamrak, Bruce Museum, Chief Financial Officer; Mary Pepe, Director of Human Resources; Alison Graham, Human Resources Employee Benefits Director; Lori Contadino, Director, Commission on Aging; Steve Katz, Chairman, Commission on Aging Board; Amy Siebert, Commissioner, Department of Public Works; Luigi Romano, Superintendent, Building Construction and Maintenance, Public Works; John Mastronardi, Executive Director, The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW), Larry Simon, Chairman, TNW Board; Richard Kaplan, TNW Board Member, Nisha Hurst, TNW Board Member; Stefano Materia, TNW Director of Facilities

BET: Dan Ozizmir, Chairman; William Drake, Karen Fassuliotis, Harry Fisher, Miriam Kreuzer, Jeff Ramer, David Weisbrod

Other Lucia Jansen, RTM District 7, Chair, Budget Overview Committee

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington called the Meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. and welcomed attendees and the audience to Day 6 of a series of BET Budget Committee public meetings. Ms. Tarkington introduced members of the BET Budget Committee. The Committee is also supported by the Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Director, Adam Ross, Assistant Budget and Systems Manager and Shira Davis, Executive Assistant to the Comptroller.

Ms. Tarkington also reported that the BET Budget Committee Departmental Review Hearings for FY 2023-2024 Day 6, are being live broadcast by GCTV on channels 79, 24, and YouTube. A schedule of the Budget Committee's Departmental Review Hearings is available on the Town website at two locations along with the BET Meeting Calendars, Budget Documents and Schedules pages.

The Day 6 Budget Presentations followed:

Fixed Charges Budget Presentation

Mr. Mynarski, Comptroller, presented the Fixed Charges Budget for FY 2023-2024 and responded to a series of questions from the BET Budget Committee members. The fixed charges covered all departments from #901 to #999 and all account codes within these sections for the General Fund. The largest account, healthcare expense, is budgeted at a 12% increase, however the State has indicated the actual increase should be available in April and may be closer to an 8% - 10% increase.

Revenues Presentation

Mr. Mynarski also presented the Revenue Budget for FY 2023-2024 and responded to a series of questions from the BET Budget Committee members. The discussions covered all General Fund revenues.

Grand List Discussion

Ms. Elliott, Assessor, presented the Grand List of October 1, 2022, for the FY 2023-2024 Budget and responded to a series of questions from the BET Budget Committee members. The Grand List totals were higher than those presented in the First Selectman's Budget and represented a \$346,403,875 increase over the 2021 Grand List. It was noted that the 2022 Grand List included in the preliminary budget is before the Board of Assessment Appeals (BBA) actions for requested adjustments.

Finance and Assessor Budgets

Mr. Gieger presented and discussed the FY 2023-2024 Finance Department Budget and Ms. Elliott presented and discussed the FY 2023-2024 Assessor's Department Budget with the BET Budget Committee members.

Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum was represented by Mr. Wolterstorff, Executive Director and CEO, Ms. Suzanne Lio, Chief Operating and Managing Director, and Carolyn Hamrak, Chief Financial Officer. They presented to the Committee the FY24 Bruce Museum Operating Budget and their audited financial statements for the years ending June 30, 2021, and 2022.

Bruce Museum officials told the Committee that the major renovations and building expansion at the site are nearing completion with the TCO having been received on February 10, 2023, with opening of the new Museum expected in April. In addition, open capital and requested capital projects including a proposed retaining wall replacement were discussed with Bruce Museum staff by the Committee.

Senior Center

Ms. Contadino, Commission on Aging Director, reported on the Commission on Aging budget for FY 2023-2024. She told the Committee that the Senior Center Budget and the Commission on Aging Budgets have been combined into one reporting budget, eliminating the Senior Center budget. She explained that the Senior Center continues vendor purchase for the food service

program and discussed lowered age of 55 for Senior Center services. She indicated there are 3,311 members.

Mr. Luigi Romano, Superintendent of Public Works Construction and Maintenance, joined the meeting and gave the Committee an update on the Senior Center Interior renovations capital project. He told the Committee that through private donations, primarily the Wallace Family gift and State Grants, the project is 100% reimbursable.

The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW)

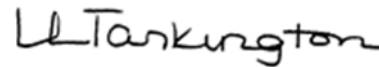
TNW Board members Larry Simon and Richard Kaplan gave the Committee an overview and status update on TNW operations including that 40 of the 202 beds are dedicated to short term, that these are more complex, really sick patients, and the facility has returned to three stars. Three staff are being added to the food services operation. The facility continues to be impacted by COVID-19. TNW officials discussed the FY24 operating budget, open capital items and requested capital projects.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Arora to adjourn Day 5 of the FY 2023-2024 Departmental Review Meeting at 4:32 P.M. Motion passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary



Leslie L. Tarkington, Committee Chair