

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW (except BOE) – FY11 BUDGET
MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room, 1st Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

Present:

Committee: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Amy Siebert, Commissioner of Public Works; David Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Alan Monelli, Superintendent of Building Construction and Maintenance; Jay Domeseck, Fleet Director; Joseph Siciliano, Director of Parks And Recreation; Tom Greco, Manager, Business Services Operations; Peter Tesei, First Selectman; John Crary, Town Administrator; Drew Marzullo, Selectman; Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief; Robert Kick, Deputy Fire Chief; Robert Brady, RTM; Genny Krob, RTM; Joseph Roberto, DPW Highways

Board: Steve Walko, Nancy Barton, Jim Campbell, Randall Huffman, Art Norton, Joseph Pellegrino, Jeff Ramer

Mr. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. He welcomed everyone to the Capital Budget Review on the 2010 - 2011 Budget.

Department Speakers and Topics Covered

Department of Public Works – Ms. Siebert and Mr. Thompson started the discussions about Public Works capital projects. The first project discussed was the Public Safety Central Fire House. Mr. Monelli explained the two main options of either renovating the existing building or demolishing the building and building a new building. Mr. Monelli explained that after extensive reviews it was proposed to demolish the existing 39,000 square foot facility and build a 30,000 square foot building. Mr. Simon asked DPW officials if they had a plan relative to the construction of a new building. Mr. Monelli stated they are still working with the architects, who were the same firm that designed the Police Facility.

The remainder of the discussion centered on the status of housing the Greenwich Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (GEMS) with their seven vehicles and the construction of training facilities specific to the Fire Department operations. Fire Chief Siecienski stated that the new facility would not be able to facilitate the needs of GEMS.

Fire Chief Siecienski also offered that none of the existing fire facilities in Town would be able to facilitate GEMS. Mr. Tesei stated that the Town is currently trying to find a suitable location to house the GEMS administrative operations.

Ms. Tarkington asked about the feasibility of housing GEMS vehicles at the parking garage adjacent to the Public Safety Building. It was determined that it was not feasible, due to the height of the GEMS vehicles and the requirement that the facility be heated to accommodate the storage of drugs and other liquids in the vehicles.

The discussion included a debate on having different training facilities for Police, Fire and GEMS operations. Mr. Monelli explained that each safety operation had different safety training requirements, therefore the need for different facilities. BET Budget Committee members asked about including fire training in the Police Public Facility and Mr. Monelli explained that the issue of safety of outsiders entering the Police Facility precluded that as a viable option.

The Committee members asked Mr. Monelli about the length of construction for the Central Fire House and Mr. Monelli answered that they could probably go to bid around December 2010, start construction in July 2011 and that the construction project would last about 24 months.

Mr. Crary told the Committee that the renovation option was not taken because it doesn't meet building code requirements and would be \$4 million dollars higher.

Mr. Walko expressed his concerns about the inclusion of fire training space at the back of the building and the exclusion of GEMS from utilizing the new facility.

The Committee turned its attention to the King Street Fire Station design and asked about what would be included in the \$175,000 capital request. Mr. Monelli answered included \$80,000 for a septic system study and the rest would be for design of the building.

The Committee asked about staffing and Fire Chief Siecienski answered that staffing would be decreased from 4 fire personnel to 3. Mr. Walko expressed his concerns and stated he would not commit any monies until the Town wide fire staffing issues were settled. Mr. Siecienski stated that Fire Management and the unions were currently in arbitration on this issue and dispatch staffing issues.

The Committee proceeded to further discuss the following issues:

- Banksville Tanker replacement for \$200,000 with a \$200,000 match with the Banksville Fire Department.
- Eastern Greenwich Community Center and the issue of closing the building. Mr. Tesei stated the fund raising efforts from the Greenwich Community Center Community groups were not materializing.

- North Street Property Development – Animal Control Facility– which included monies to widen the entrance from North Street. Mr. Monelli also stated that the Board of Education money needs were being reviewed and that the plan should be reviewed by Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands. The \$100,000 in FY12 included demolition of the existing animal shelter and garage at the original location and restoration of the site to be parkland.
- Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink.
- Town Hall Cooling Tower Replacement.
- Town Wide Asbestos programs.
- Bruce Museum – Contributions to External Entities Capital Requests – Mr. Siciliano answered that Parks and Recreation does monitor the completion of these projects.

At this point Mr. Roberto was invited to the table with Ms. Siebert and Mr. Thompson to discuss a variety of Highway Department capital project requests. Mr. Roberto stated that about 60% of highway maintenance was outsourced. DPW officials and the BET members discussed the asphalt paving program and the receipt of stimulus funding and how it affects cutbacks in paving requests.

There was a discussion of the “blue payroll”, which is the payment of Greenwich Police Officers for Town projects off the regular payroll.

Additional projects discussed were as follows:

- Video Trak Detection.
- Traffic Signals at Mill and Mead Road.
- Traffic Signal Replacements.
- Two dump trucks being replaced.
- The Round Hill Road and John Street Intersection improvements.
- North Street Parsonage Road Intersection Project – which Ms. Siebert stated that the funds were being returned and the project was being reviewed.
- Western Junior Highway at Henry Street Pedestrian Island.
- Town Wide Traffic reviews.
- Traffic calming.
- Safe Routes to Schools Programs – which Ms. Siebert stated was being repurposed to other sidewalk programs.
- Holly Hill Transfer Station Master Plan. Mr. Simon asked if there is an existing plan for \$5 million and Mr. Thompson answered no, further stating the old plan was outdated and needed to be done over.
- Sidewalks – Annual “New” Sidewalk Construction based on the “First Selectman’s Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee” study. There was extended discussion about including the Hearthstone Drive Project and the mailbox kiosk on Town property.

Mr. Thompson offered that he was prepared to discuss bridge projects. Mr. Mason stated there were no questions on bridges and no further discussion on bridges was held.

The discussion turned to drainage issues. There was a discussion on the Stormwater Master Planning Project which began in 2007. Mr. Finger asked Ms. Siebert how does the department actually decide where to spend money on the projects? Ms. Siebert explained the process to Mr. Finger and other BET members using the Brothers Brook – East Putnam Avenue Bridge and Roadway Replacement Project as an example.

The Budget Committee recessed for lunch at 12:55 P.M. and reconvened at 1:18 P.M.

FLEET DEPARTMENT – Mr. Domeseck, Fleet Director, distributed an outline of replacement vehicles for FY 2010-2011 and described in detail the process to the BET members.

Mr. Mason informed Mr. Domeseck that at a future date the BET was going to look at Fleet operations, especially in the areas of outsourcing.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Mr. Siciliano and Mr. Greco informed the Committee on the status of a variety of Parks and Recreation capital projects as follows:

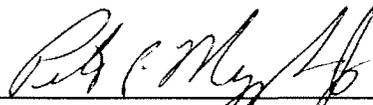
- GPS Tracking System – mandated by the United States Coast Guard.
- Replace Greenwich Point waterline.
- Ferry Lifejacket Replacements – mandated by the United States Coast Guard.
- Marina Pier Rebuilding Program.
- Cos Cob Marina Retaining Wall Replacement.
- Dredge Cos Cob Marina.
- Organic Turf Program – Mr. Siciliano stated the program cost has been reduced from \$394,000 to \$275,000 because they have become more experienced with the program. Mr. Siciliano also stated that they are keeping it in capital due to the fact that it is maintaining a Town asset.
- Athletic Field Maintenance Programs.
- Playground Inspection and Upgrade Programs.
- Relocation of Grass Island Electric Line Underground Program.
- Replace Workboat Outboard Motor.
- Tennis and Basketball Maintenance Program.
- Athletic Field Mower.
- Park Lighting Upgrade Program – which included a discussion on lighting at the former Cos Cob Power Plant Site Remediation Project.
- Ferry Boats.

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS AND OPTIONS – There were extended discussion on the fifteen year financing model. Mr. Gieger handed out various five year, ten year and

twenty year financing scenarios and the BET members discussed the results of Mr. Gieger's work.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary


Michael S. Mason, Chairman