

**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW (except BOE) – FY13 BUDGET  
MINUTES  
Cone Meeting Room, 2nd Floor – 9:00 A.M.  
Wednesday, February 22, 2012**

Present:

Committee: Joseph L. Pellegrino, William R. Finger, Jeffrey Ramer, 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; Joseph Roberto, DPW Highways; Jeff Freidag, Superintendent, Marine and Facility Operations Division; Charlie Tufts, GEMS Executive Director; Dick Kriskey, GEMS; Dustin Anderson, Administrative Manager, Office of the First Selectman; James Michel, DPW Chief Engineer; Richard Feminella, Waste Water Division Manager; Boris Hutorin, Director of Information Technology; Greg Sullivan, GIS Coordinator; Diane Fox, Director of Planning and Zoning/Town Planner; Denise Savageau, Conservation Director

Board: Michael Mason, Chairman, Mary Lee Kiernan, Jeff Bedrosian, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Art Norton, Marc Johnson

Mr. Pellegrino called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He welcomed everyone to the Capital Budget Review on the 2012 – 2013 Budget.

**Department Speakers and Topics Covered**

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT – REVENUE AND FIXED CHARGES PRESENTATIONS** – Mr. Mynarski distributed two power point presentations to the Budget Committee covering revenues and fixed charges cost for the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget. During the presentation, Mr. Mynarski answered questions relative to the two presentations.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Review of Apparatus Usage – Fire Chief Siecienski and Assistant Chief Kick were asked to return from a previous budget meeting to further explain the Fire Department's capital request for two rescue pumpers for \$600,000 each. Mr. Pellegrino asked Chief Siecienski if the department could get by with one rescue pumper. Chief Siecienski reminded the Committee that the replacement of Engine #4 was deferred from last year and it takes almost a year from order date to replace the apparatus being requested. Chief Siecienski further explained in great deal that the two pieces of apparatus being requested are necessary. Chief Siecienski, in response to questions, explained the replacement sequence over the next couple of years. Chief Siecienski explained that the first apparatus request was for two rescue

pumpers to replace Engine numbers 4 and 8 in fiscal year 2012-2013. He further explained that the next request would be to replace Engine numbers 5 and 3 in fiscal year 2013-2014. Finally, Chief Sicienski offered that there would be a request for another rescue pumper in fiscal year 2014-2105 that would be a new request for the King Street Fire Station and not a replacement. Mr. Finger asked about call out statistics on the equipment at the Glenville Fire Station. Assistant Chief Kick responded by referencing the "Career Staffed Apparatus and Volunteer Apparatus Town Owned" statistics sheets distributed to the Committee members. He stated that there were 1,137 calls for Engine #4 in calendar year 2011 and 51 calls for Engine #41 for calendar year 2011 from the Glenville Fire Station.

**GIS – Discussion by Stakeholders –** Based on comments from Mr. Hutorin at a previous Budget Committee meeting, Mr. Pellegrino requested that the stakeholders to the \$500,000 GIS capital request for an aerial flyover be present to answer questions. Panelists consisting of Diane Fox, Denise Savageau, Greg Sullivan and Boris Hutorin appeared to answer questions. Mr. Pellegrino asked who is responsible in explaining the request and who could give a short historical perspective on the project. Mr. Hutorin volunteered by stating it is an event that usually occurs every five years with an aerial flyover. The remaining panelists explained the value of the updated GIS data to their respective departments. Mr. Pellegrino asked if there would be a parallel state or federal flyover that the Town could take advantage of. Mr. Boris responded that no one knows for sure. Mr. Sullivan countered by stating the State of Connecticut is doing a flyover but the resolution of the aerial photography is not in complete compliance with the Town's requirements for resolution clarity. Mr. Sullivan also offered that the Southwest Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) was doing a regional flyover. SWRPA represents a number of Fairfield County Towns. Mr. Finger inquired as to how many firms provide this type of service of aerial photography. Mr. Sullivan responded that about half a dozen firms perform the services. Ms. Tarkington offered that the Assessor's office is dependent on the GIS data and utilizes the property information to provide additional revenue to the Town through the discovery process.

Mr. Ramer asked the panelists if there was collaboration with neighboring communities on aerial photography. Mr. Sullivan responded yes, absolutely that the towns work together.

The Committee, upon further discussions, learned that the capital request could be lowered and the aerial flyover costs were only about \$25,000 of the total costs. Mr. Sullivan was directed to give Mr. Gieger a lower estimate of the costs.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Holly Hill Master Plan –** Amy Siebert and James Michel appeared to answer questions relative to the \$2,000,000 Holly Hill Master Plan capital project. Ms. Siebert offered that the improvements needed at the Holly Hill Transfer Station include the separation of residential operations from commercial operations for safety, the construction of a solid waste office building and highway garage, storm water improvements, dredging of the pond on the site and landscaping improvements. Ms. Siebert stated that the initial phase of the project would include replacing the scale, the scale house and relocating the sewer line and that these were high priority items.

Mr. Pellegrino asked Ms. Siebert on how the department was doing regarding the management of the overall capital projects workload. Ms. Siebert responded that they are managing the workload well but were held back a little by the sewer consent decree requirements.

There was a limited discussion on the following capital projects; the Town Hall Roof, the Grass Island Restrooms and the Town-wide Restroom Rehabilitation capital projects.

There was an extended discussion on Sewer Projects. Mr. Feminella distributed a presentation on the status of Sewer Division Sewer Projects and answered the Committee questions relative to the review.

After the Sewer Projects review, Mr. Pellegrino proceeded to go through each sewer capital project request listed in the Selectman's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. The question came up about which projects are Sewer Maintenance and which are Sewer Improvement projects. Mr. Gieger explained the difference and alerted the Committee members to impending large tax increases in the Sewer Maintenance Fund. For illustrative purposes, Mr. Gieger and Mr. Mynarski pointed out in the budget book the large increase in the mill rate for the next fiscal year being at 17.65% and they would continue to be large due to the large capital requests in this area.

**Greenwich Emergency Medical Service, Inc. (GEMS)** – Ms. Tufts distributed a power point presentation regarding the GEMS operations and history. Ms. Tufts started to discuss the presentation. Mr. Pellegrino reminded Ms. Tufts that the BET Budget Committee and other BET members had already witnessed the presentation and preferred a question and answer session in lieu of repeating the previously observed presentation.

Mr. Pellegrino asked Ms. Tufts to explain what the \$250,000 capital request was for. Mr. Tesei responded for Ms. Tufts by answering that the request was to put GEMS at the Boy Scout Reservation. A discussion ensued whereby the Budget Committee was informed that GEMS did not have an agreement with the Boy Scouts regarding the use of Boy Scout property.

Mr. Finger expressed his concern that this request was before the Committee without a definite site to build on being identified.

Mr. Pellegrino offered as a suggestive alternative to fund this project initially through fund raising. Mr. Pellegrino also asked that a comprehensive plan including GEMS vision for a headquarters be presented.

Mr. Ramer asked if Ms. Tuft thought the present site where GEMS Medic # 4 is being stationed was a suitable location. Ms. Tufts expressed that the Town has been working on seeking a site location for a year and a half and there is still no resolution to this matter. Ms. Tuft in further response to Mr. Ramer stated that the King Street site is adequate but could be more ideal.

Mr. Ramer also asked if the \$250,000 request is partially to find a site for GEMS. Mr. Kriskey answered yes.

Mr. Finger asked if GEMS can't move forward on finding a site if the King Street location is ok. Mr. Monelli then proceeded to describe the King Street building in various degrees of disrepair and strongly does not recommend it for GEMS.

**Senior Center Renovation** – Mr. Pellegrino asked for an explanation of the \$400,000 capital request for the Senior Center Interior Upgrade Program. Mr. Monelli gave the Committee members an update and reasons for the capital request.

**LED Street Lights Cost Savings** – Mr. Crary spoke to the \$295,000 capital request for the Purchase and Maintenance of Street Lights. Mr. Crary started by saying there are 2,907 streetlights currently in town. In addition, Mr. Crary stated that the Town pays the Connecticut Light and Power Company \$470,000 annually for the costs to maintain those streetlights. Mr.

Crary's suggestion is to buy the steeltlights on behalf of the Town and maintain them through a third-party vendor. Mr. Crary added that the cost would be approximately \$289,000 saving the Town about \$170,000 annually.

**Town Hall Space Utilization** – Mr. Pellegrino asked for an explanation for the \$200,000 request for town hall projects. Mr. Monelli responded that the current plan calls for the space currently occupied by Retirement Administration on the first floor to be occupied by Administrative Services. He added that people in Administrative Services on the ground floor would move up to the first floor and the Health Laboratory would be renovated. Mr. Pellegrino asked if he needed the entire \$200,000. Mr. Monelli answered that he would need the \$200,000 to finish the job already started this year with prior year space utilization monies and a grant from the State of Connecticut.

**Temporary Fire Station** – Mr. Pellegrino asked about the status of the temporary fire station at the Horse Neck Lot. Mr. Monelli responded that they appropriation was for \$1,225,000. Mr. Monelli informed the Committee that the bid came in for \$989,000 by Wernert Construction and there were additional costs of about \$170,000 for the project. Mr. Pellegrino asked Mr. Monelli if he had enough funds to complete the job. Mr. Monelli responded that he had about \$70,000 left and yes he had enough funds to complete this phase of the project. Mr. Monelli also answered that the job was on schedule and he expected the general contractor to start construction about June 2012. He then added that they would concentrate on demolition of the Central Fire House after completion of the temporary fire station at the Horse Neck Lot.

The Budget Committee recessed for lunch at 1:01 P.M. and reconvened at 1:31 P.M.

**PARKS AND RECREATION – Dredging (Permit Status)** – Mr. Pellegrino asked about the \$1,000,000 request to dredge the Cos Cob Marina. Mr. Siciliano informed the Committee that the Cos Cob Marina had not been dredged in about 20 years and they were experiencing severe silting from the Mianus River. Mr. Siciliano offered that they had reduced the costs down from the original request of \$1,800,000.

Mr. Pellegrino asked if there would be a Request for Proposals for the project. Mr. Freidag responded that the project would be competitively bid and that three or four firms would bid.

Mr. Pellegrino asked about the optimum time to complete the project. Mr. Siciliano answered that the project would be completed during the December 2012 to April 2013 timeframe.

Mr. Pellegrino asked about any potential liability due to contamination of the materials being removed from the Mianus River. Mr. Freidag responded that there was a sediment analysis done and sent to the State of Connecticut on January 5, 2012. He added that although the Town had not received the results they would have probably been notified if there was a problem by now.

At this point, Mr. Pellegrino requested an update on the capital request of \$150,000 for the Byram Pool Master Plan. Mr. Siciliano started by saying the Byram property was purchased in the 1970's. He added that 27,000 people frequent the beach and pool location each year and overall 49,000 people frequent the entire park each year. Mr. Siciliano stated the pool is leaking and they are unable to determine its origin. Mr. Pellegrino asked about the annual cost associated with the water leakage and Mr. Siciliano answered about \$4,000 per year.

Mr. Pellegrino asked Mr. Siciliano to describe what he is proposing for the additional total cost of \$7,500,000. Mr. Siciliano stated the plan calls for a new pool, pool support building, beach entry structure which will include beach restrooms, ticketing and concession stand and increased parking to support park and ADA requirements. In exchange, the existing pool, pool house, concession, ticket booth, locker building and beach restroom will be removed.

Mr. Pellegrino asked if there are any potential limitations to this plan. Ms. Siebert responded first by saying there are sewage capacity limitations that could impact this project. Mr. Monelli added that there is a further limitation regarding parking availability. Mr. Monelli explained that additional parking spaces would be needed. Mr. Monelli clarified his statements by saying that the parking area would have to accommodate 300 people per day. The increased attendance would be attributed to the increased size of the pool. Mr. Monelli stated the request would be to build a 6,000 square foot pool up from the current size of 1,675 square feet. When asked about the cost, Mr. Monelli said it is premature to estimate the cost.

Ms. Tarkington asked about the increase in cost from a previous request of \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million. Mr. Monelli answered that the increase in cost was attributable to the expansion of parking space needs.

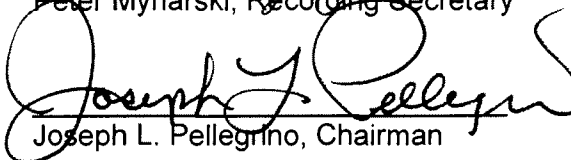
Ms. Tarkington asked about increased operational costs. Mr. Siciliano answered there will be no request to increase full time staff, but there will be an increased need for more lifeguards and seasonal part time staff. Mr. Siciliano stressed that the pool would be for recreational use only and there would be no competitive use for the pool for non-recreational users.

Mr. Pellegrino asked about the status of last year's appropriation of \$100,000. Mr. Siciliano answered that there was a contribution of \$45,000 from the Town Pool Committee and about \$25,000 of the \$100,000 had been spent to date.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

  
Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman