

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
NATHANIEL WITHERELL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Gisborne Conference Room, Town Hall

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Committee: Arthur D. Norton; Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Jill Oberlander; Nancy Weissler

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 P.M.

1. Approval of the BET Nathaniel Witherell Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2017 and February 10, 2017; February 7, 2017 Conference Call.

The Committee confirmed that the minutes of the January 30, 2017 meeting were approved at the February 10th meeting.

Draft minutes of the February 7, 2017 Conference Call were distributed.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Committee voted 2-0-1 (Oberlander abstaining since she didn't participate in the conference call) to adopt the February 7, 2017 minutes. Ms. Krumeich arrived after the vote on the minutes.

Draft minutes of the February 10, 2017 meeting were distributed.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Ms. Oberlander, the Committee voted 3 to 0 to adopt the February 10, 2017 minutes. Ms. Krumeich arrived after the vote on the minutes.

2. Discussion of Nathaniel Witherell Business, Financial Models

Town Attorney Wayne Fox attended to discuss procurement requirements and litigation. Mr. Fox advised that Nathaniel Witherell should comply with Town purchasing requirements, including the solicitation of proposals using a competitive process, when considering strategic partnerships. In response to a Committee question, Mr. Fox stated that there is limited litigation initiated by residents and their families. Nathaniel Witherell and the Town are more often the respondents for claims filed with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

The Committee discussed business developments and financial risks. Ms. Krumeich referenced a COPD expansion. Mr. Norton referenced the GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) requirement to record unfunded pension liability as debt. The Committee discussed risks associated with public access to the facility, and recommended that this issue be considered by the Board.

3. Preliminary Outline and Discussion of Final Report

The Committee had initial discussions of four possible scenarios for the continued operation of Nathaniel Witherell. They are: maintaining operations as they are currently; transferring operations to a not-for-profit; transferring operations to a private company; and closing down the skilled nursing facility.


The Committee agreed that the report would identify a series of business, financial and governance risks related to Nathaniel Witherell's operation. Mr. Norton stated that the Nathaniel Witherell Board would benefit from members with skills specific to the operation of a skilled nursing facility.

4. Items for Future Committee Meetings

The next two scheduled meeting are March 29, 2017, 8:30 A.M. in the Gisborne Room, and April 12, 2017, 8:30 A.M. in the Gisborne Room.

5. Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 P.M.



Jill Oberlander, Recording Secretary



Arthur D. Norton, Chairman