

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE
FINANCE REVENUES AND FIXED CHARGES PRESENTATION AND CAPITAL BUDGET
REVIEW (except BOE) – FY12 BUDGET
MINUTES
Cone Meeting Room, 2nd Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, February 23, 2011**

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; Joseph Siciliano, Director of Parks And Recreation; Tom Greco, Manager, Business Services Operations; Bruce Spaman, Parks and Recreation Tree Warden, Peter Tesei, First Selectman; John Crary, Town Administrator; Dustin Anderson, Office of the First Selectman Drew Marzullo, Selectman; Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief; Robert Kick, Deputy Fire Chief; ; Genny Krob, RTM; Joseph Roberto, DPW Highways, Leslie Moriarty, Board of Education; *Steve Warzoha*

Board: Steve Walko, Nancy Barton, Randall Huffman, Art Norton, Jeff Ramer

Mr. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He welcomed everyone to the Finance Department Presentation on Revenues and Fixed Charges and Capital Budget Review on the 2011–2012 Budget.

Department Speakers and Topics Covered

Finance Department Revenue and Fixed Charges Presentations:

Mr. Mynarski gave two power point presentations on: 1) the Fixed Charges Budget and 2) Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Mr. Mynarski answered questions during the presentations.

Operating and Capital Model Discussions:

Mr. Mason and Mr. Gieger followed the aforementioned presentations with two more presentations dealing with: 1) the ten-year operating model and 2) the fifteen-year capital financing model. The fifteen-year capital financing plan was presented under five different scenarios as follows; 1) the Selectman's Version, 2) 75% Funding Limitation, 3) No Additional Borrowings, 4) Twenty-Year Bonds for Projects over \$10 Million and 5) the Fire Station and MISA Deferred. They answered questions relevant to their presentations.

The Budget Committee recessed for lunch at 12:25 P.M. and reconvened at 1:03 P.M.

CAPITAL PROJECT REVIEW

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Prior to the Public Works discussions, Mr. Mason asked about capital projects closeouts. A listing of closeouts for the Capital Projects Bond Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Sewer Improvements Fund and the Parking Fund prepared by the Finance Department was distributed and discussed.

Central Fire Station

Mr. Monelli, joined by Ms. Siebert and Mr. Thompson, laid out the timelines for the project. Mr. Monelli explained that after the project drawings are 30% complete they would be ready to apply for Municipal Improvement Status, Planning and Zoning Board approval and other applicable approvals. Mr. Monelli estimated that it would take six months from May to October 2011 to get through the Land Use approval process. After approvals are given, the next step would be completion of the remaining 70% of the drawings in four to six months and the Town would be ready to go out to bid in approximately April 2012.

Mr. Finger asked about the timeline for the temporary move to the Horseneck Lot and was told the temporary station could be ready by September 2011.

Ms. Tarkington asked about the borrowing timelines and Mr. Mynarski with assistance from Mr. Monelli explained the amounts and when the approximate borrowings would occur. The initial estimate would be \$5 million in January 2012.

First Selectman Tesei and Fire Chief Sicienski joined in the discussions, at this point.

Mr. Simon asked about fire apparatus deployment strategies and Mr. Tesei told the Committee that he wanted a presence downtown to cover the void and the risks involved. Mr. Tesei offered that the largest employers for the Town are all located within a short distance of the vacated Central Fire site and would like coverage to be available.

In response to a question from Mr. Mason, Chief Sicienski detailed response times from the various points in town and type of incident.

Ms. Tarkington asked whether the possibility of using the Havemeyer Building location as a temporary site was explored. Chief Sicienski stated yes and that turning radius was a deterrent to that location.

Mr. Mason asked about the impact on any streets during construction. Chief Sicienski responded that half of "Police Alley", Mason Street and Havemeyer Place would be impacted.

Mr. Mason asked which stations would service the Central Fire House equipment. Chief Sicienski and Mr. Monelli stated it would be absorbed into different other fire stations.

Mr. Ramer asked about a letter submitted during a previous public hearing dealing with the Historic Building status of the building. Mr. Tesei responded that his office was preparing responses to that particular letter and others and offered to share his response with Mr. Ramer and the BET members.

The discussions on the Central Fire House concluded and Mr. Mason proceeded in going through the other Public Works capital projects.

Mr. Simon asked if a plan for sidewalk maintenance existed and Ms. Siebert said yes.

Mr. Simon asked about the existence of a program to rate Town buildings. Mr. Walko followed up with Mr. Simon's question by requesting an executive summary of all existing plans explaining the status of rating all Public Works infrastructure.

Mr. Finger inquired about the previous capital project amount of \$150,000 for the Town Hall Utilization capital project. Mr. Monelli explained that monies were used for the Health Department Laboratory upgrade.

Upon questions about the Town Hall roof, Mr. Monelli explained the need for its repair. Mr. Tesei followed up by discussing the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center roof and the need for its repair. Ms. Barton asked about the condition of the overall Civic Center building and the feasibility of putting a roof on a building if it could be potentially razed in a few years. Mr. Siciliano explained that they currently are providing 9,700 program user hours and they need to keep the building open and a new roof is essential.

Ms. Tarkington asked about the Byram Pool Master Plan and if a breakdown of costs were available. Mr. Siciliano explained that this request is needed to provide such a breakdown of costs. Mr. Siciliano further offered that there is \$45,000 in donations towards this project from a public/private partnership.

Mr. Mason continued to proceed through the list of Public Works capital projects

Mr. Roberto and Ms. Siebert talked about sidewalks and curbing around the new CVS store at the end of Holly Hill Road and other areas in Town.

Mr. Mason asked about the Town wide Restroom plan and Ms. Siebert offered to provide the plan for remaining repairs.

Mr. Simon asked about the DPW Pavement Management System. In lieu of discussing the program Mr. Roberto distributed a "Greenwich DPW-Highway Division Pavement Management Report".

Mr. Simon asked about the LED bulbs and their perceived deficiencies. Ms. Siebert stated that before the switch over to LED bulbs for traffic lights they would change the lights every two years. Ms. Siebert also offered that the price came down dramatically providing cost savings to the Town and they have a useful life of about seven years.

Mr. Thomas gave the Committee a brief update on repairing bridges.

The final topic for Public Works covered an extended discussion on storm water and drainage projects. Mr. Mason asked about the role the Flood Erosion and Control Board is playing regarding setting policy in these areas and prioritizing drainage projects.

PARKS AND RECREATION with Trees – Parks and Recreation was represented with the appearance of Mr. Siciliano, Mr. Greco and Mr. Spaman.

Mr. Mason asked about the Town's tree program in light of the significant number of trees down due to recent winter activity.

Mr. Siciliano explained that the tree program consists of three components; 1) an outsourcing unit, 2) the internal tree crews and 3) the work provided by Northeast Utilities. Mr. Siciliano informed the Committee that the current agreement with the Teamsters to outsource expires June 30, 2011 but he expects it to be extended with the assistance of Al Cava, the Town's Labor Negotiator.

Mr. Siciliano offered that there is currently a backlog of 570 workorders requiring routine maintenance with different priorities for each tree.

Ms. Tarkington and Mr. Finger inquired about excessive costs for tree maintenance. Mr. Siciliano explained that high costs are driven by the requirement to provide traffic control with Town police officers instead of his own tree crew personnel.

Mr. Simon asked about the potential liability of dangerous trees and if there was a computerized work order system. Mr. Spaman, the Town's Tree Warden, responded that they have a computerized program that exists in conjunction with the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) and that 265 miles of road trees have been surveyed. Mr. Spaman also informed the Committee that a tree can live for up to 80 years and there are approximately 1,100 defective trees. Mr. Spaman went on further to explain that there are two degrees of a tree being defective and at risk to the Town in terms of potential liability.


Mr. Spaman concluded the tree conversations with a discussion on the Trees at Risk – Major Town Roadway's capital project.

Mr. Siciliano concluded the Parks and Recreation capital projects discussion by stating that the North Street shed project will be completed this week and that field operations and tree operations would be housed at this location. And finally, Mr. Siciliano informed the Committee the Organic Turf Program is working well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary


Michael S. Mason, Chairman