Mr. Lash called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M.

Mr. Lash reviewed changes that the Committee suggested during Consolidation Day to the OFS FY18 Budget. Mr. Gieger distributed and updated FY18 Budget Voting Document and the Committee began its line by line review of items previously noted for possible changes.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to adopt the First Selectman's Budget as proposed subject to amendments as follows, seconded by Mr. Ramer. Approved 4-0

REVENUE

The Committee discussed and agreed on making the following three changes to the revenue section of the Budget:

46110 Interest Earned on Investment increased by $200,000 to $450,000
49113 Parking Fund fines lower by $100,000 to $700,000
43451 Educational Cost Sharing Grant lower by $136,000 to $0

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET

105 - Office of the First Selectman - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase the OFS Budget 105-51490 by $25,000 to include Six Sigma Training. This training, in coordination with the First Selectman's Working Group, will assist efforts to identify improvements to current practices that are more effective and/or more efficient. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.
139 – Tax Collector - Mr. Lash motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the Tax Collector Budget 139-51010 by $50,000. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. Mr. Lash commented that he believes the Town is able to spend less money on the collection of taxes. The Committee voted 3-0-1 (Abstain: Tarkington)

Mr. Ramer noted he will consider proposing a subject to release condition on $25,000 of the salary budget to confirm that the staffing model complies with the salary budget.

201- Fire Department - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase the Fire Department Budget 201-54250 by $55,000 for a Property Damage Allowance. The same amount will be deducted from Fixed Charges. The rationale is to provide more accountability for vehicle repair expense from accidents by moving the budget from the Insurance account to the departmental budget. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

205 and 208 - Fire Department - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease Fire Department Overtime 205-51100 by $4,012, to increase the Contribution to Round Hill Fire Station 208-57218 by $1,212 and Contribution to Banksville Fire Station 208-57219 by $2,800 for a 2% increase for each Contribution. No second.

211 Police Department - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase Police Department Budget 211-54250 by $35,000 for a Property Damage Allowance. The same amount will be deducted from Fixed Charges. The rationale is to provide more accountability for vehicle repair expense from accidents by moving the budget from the Insurance account to the departmental budget. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

213 Police Department - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase Police Department Budget 213-52360 by $7,500 to cover the cost of software for the Side Job Administration tracking system. This was a newly identified need for better accountability. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

301 Public Works - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase Public Works Budget 301-54250 by $25,000 for a Property Damage Allowance. The same amount will be deducted from Fixed Charges. The rationale is to provide more accountability for vehicle repair expense from accidents by moving the budget from the Insurance account to the departmental budget. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

440 External Entities - Channel 79
Ms. Tarkington indicated her intent to add a condition to release funds subject to an application for Cable Council grant funding.

440 External Entities - TAG - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the Contribution to TAG 440-57221 by $6,200. This would lower the contribution so that it equates to a 2% increase over FY17B. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 1-3-0; motion failed. (Opposed: Lash, Moriarty, Ramer)

440 External Entities - GEMS
Ms. Tarkington indicated her intent to add a condition on release of approximately half of the appropriation for receipt and approval of a mid-year report on operations and financials.

440 External Entities - Safe Rides - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce funding for the Contribution for Safe Rides 440-57231 to zero (0). There was no second.
440 External Entities - Economic Development Marketing - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to move Economic Development Marketing 440-57232 for $30,000 from 440 External Entities to 105 Office of the First Selectman. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 4-0.

105 OFS - Economic Development Marketing - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to delete funding for the Economic Development Marketing 105-57232 ($30,000). Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 1-3-0. (Opposed: Lash, Moriarty, Tarkington)

1050FS - Economic Development Marketing - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the funding for the Economic Development Marketing 105-57232 to $15,000. There was no second.

Mr. Lash indicated he will consider proposing a condition for the release of these funds on confirmation that the external entity raised an additional $30,000 and the articulation of a clearer purpose.

Ms. Tarkington indicated she will consider proposing a condition for the release of these funds on a more specific plan on how the funds will be used.

440 External Entities - Contribution to YWCA - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete funding for Contribution to YWCA 440-57233 ($60,000). No second.

Mr. Lash noted that for next year’s Budget, he would like to see an overall review of External Entities to include understanding their role in local government funding and services, their interrelationship with Town functions, the oversight of these contributions especially as compared to contributions made directly by Town departments, why these organizations rather than others, the specific objectives for these contributions, etc.

501 Department of Social Services - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease this department’s budget External Entities by $71,605. This would bring the total Department increase over FY17 to 2%. No second.

FIXED CHARGES

901 Employee Benefits - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease Contribution for Healthcare Administration Costs 901-57090 by $100,000, decrease contribution to 401K match 901-57950 by $100,000 and decrease OPEB Contribution 901-57220 by $182,000, a total reduction of $382,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 4-0.

902 Unemployment and Workers Comp - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease Unemployment Insurance 902-57330 by $50,000. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

908 Insurance - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to decrease Self Retention Insurance Claim 908-56800 by $315,000. $115,000 of this reduction is to move the budget for vehicle repairs due to accidents to operating departments (Fire, $55,000; Police, $35,000; DPW, $25,000 for Property Damage Allowances) for better accountability. An additional $200,000 is
recommended to be reduced in Self Retention Insurance after review of prior year experience. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

999- Transfer to Other Funds - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the Contribution to Nathaniel Witherell by $300,000 from $3,000,000 to $2,700,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

After accepting the above changes, the proposed Total Operating Budget is $412,830,748.

CAPITAL BUDGET

105 General Government - Fire Services Study 105-973 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to increase the appropriation for the Fire Services Study by $30,000, from $70,000 to $100,000. The reason is to assure there are sufficient funds to have a qualified firm perform the comprehensive study being proposed. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend to delete the appropriation for the Fire Services Study. Mr. Lash seconded the motion. The Committee voted 1-3. (Opposed: Lash, Moriarty, Ramer). Motion failed.

On the original motion, the Committee voted 3-1-0. (Opposed: Tarkington) Ms. Moriarty indicated she will consider proposing a condition of release upon review and approval of the scope and deliverables included in the RFP.

206 Fire Department - Renovation of Round Hill Fire Station 206-956 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to delete Round Hill Fire Station project ($100,000). The reason is to complete the Fire Services Study before committing to specific design plans. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1-0. (Opposed: Tarkington)

312 Public Works - Traffic Signal Maintenance 312-909 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the Traffic Signal Maintenance by $75,000 from $225,000 to $150,000. No second.

312 Public Works - Annual Paving Program 312-960 - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to increase the Annual Paving Program by $1,000,000 from $4,000,000 to $5,000,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Annual Paving Program to decrease to $3,000,000. No second.

On the original motion, the Committee voted 3-1-0 (Opposed: Tarkington)

312 Public Works - Pemberwick Park/Road Sidewalk 312-960 - Mr. Lash motioned to amend the Budget to delete the Pemberwick Park/Road Sidewalk ($75,000). Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

Ms. Moriarty requested DPW propose a revised project that includes design funds for Phase II of this project (rather than both Phase II and Phase III as presented).

312 Public Works - Greenwich Avenue Streetscape & Repaving 312-960 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the Greenwich Avenue project by $375,000, from $500,000 to $125,000 - what was proposed in the FY17 Budget for FY18. There was discussion
about an Eversource design of a street lighting plan to include Cobra lighting for the intersections to improve visibility as recommended by Eversource to the POCD Downtown Committee; a desire for the design process to include businesses, residents, and Town services; and for a review of the design prior to any implementation. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 1-3-0. Motion failed. (Opposed: Lash, Moriarty, Ramer)

Ms. Tarkington indicated she will consider proposing a condition for $300,000 of the appropriation subject to release upon submission and approval of the detailed plan.

312 Public Works - Oneida Drive Bridge Replacement 312-962 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to move the project from the FY18 Budget to the FY19 Budget. No second.

312 Public Works - Steamboat Landing 312-973 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation from $600,000 to $250,000. No second.

345 Public Works - Baldwin Park Electrical Upgrade 345-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation from the FY18 budget and move it to the FY19 Budget. No second.

312 Public Works/680 Schools - Soil Remediation - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to add a new project for soil remediation for $5,000,000 for GHS and Western Middle School fields. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. There was a discussion about the need to be able to move forward on an approved remediation plan as expeditiously as possible without a possible delay due to summer meeting schedules. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed Lash, Ramer)

680 Schools - Soil Remediation - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to add a new project for soil remediation at Western Middle School for $2,000,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1-0. (Opposed: Lash)

380 Fleet – Police vehicles 912-213 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the budget for replacing Police Interceptor SUVs by $252,000, from $492,500 to $240,000. No second.

380 Fleet – DPW Dump Truck 912-312 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the new DPW Dump Truck ($205,000). No second.

380 Fleet - DPW Low Boy Dump Truck 912-312 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the DPW Low Boy Dump Truck ($115,000). No second.

380 Fleet - Parks & Rec Dump Truck 912-822 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the Parks & Rec Dump Truck ($115,000). No second.

380 Fleet - Parks & Rec Pickup Truck 912-822 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the Parks & Rec Pickup Truck ($42,000). No second.

680 Schools - Digital Learning - Ms. Tarkington indicated she will consider proposing a condition requesting identification of two measurement / benchmarking goals.

680 Schools - Advanced A&E 680-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation for Advanced A&E from $550,00 to $450,000. No second.
680 Schools - Cardinal Stadium Feasibility Study 680-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation for the Cardinal Stadium Feasibility Study ($60,000). She indicated the remediation plan first should be approved by the state and federal regulatory agencies in order not to raise expectations. No second.

680 Schools - New Lebanon School project - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to add an appropriation of $2,298,000 to the New Lebanon Construction project to cover the cost for housing students in the existing building during construction. This request is linked to closing the appropriation approved last year for the same amount for the construction of modular classrooms. While supportive, Ms. Tarkington questioned the amount and requested that the work sheet comparing the cost of modulars, housing during construction within the New Lebanon School, and busing be circulated to clarify the comparative costs as approved by the BET in FY17. It was confirmed that the project comparative worksheet with its details would be provided. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

701 Library - Parking Lot Curb Upgrade & Other 701-982 - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the $246,000 appropriation by $15,000 to $231,000. This change is due to the lack of need for police officers for traffic control. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

834 Parks & Recreation Marine Division - Cos Cob Ramp Phase II 834-970 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $350,000 and place in the FY19 budget. No second.

450 The Nathaniel Witherell - Domestic Water Line & Fire Line Replacement 450-956 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $180,000. No second.

Sewer Maintenance - Public Works - Force Main Improvement OG Common Force Main 361-965 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to delete the appropriation of $240,000. The recent bid for a previous part of this project came in lower than budgeted so eliminating the need for these funds. Motion seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0.

Sewer Maintenance - Public Works – Sewer Rehabilitation 361-965 - Ms. Tarkington motioned to amend the Budget to reduce the appropriation by $400,000 due to current funds availability from past Budget approvals. No second.

Sewer Improvement - Public Works - Grass Island WWTP Asset Management 361-965 - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to decrease the appropriation of $1,500,000 by $400,000 to $1,100,000. The decrease is based on revised project estimates from the department. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

Mr. Drake proposed that the Committee consider adjusting the Capital schedule to clarify anticipated borrowing needs more accurately in the out-years. The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the 15-year model and agreed that it better represented potential future capital requirements. Mr. Geiger was asked to change the model by adopting the revised forecast capital spending. Mr. Ozizmir commented that an additional refinement of maintenance capital versus projects would improve understanding of the 15 Year Plan.

After accepting these actions, the total proposed Capital Budget is $45,236,000.
REVOLVING FUNDS/OTHER

The Budget Committee returned to the Operating Budgets for each of the Revolving Funds/Other including the Sewer Maintenance Fund, Sewer Improvement Fund, Nathaniel Witherell, School Lunch Fund, Parking Fund, Griffith E. Harris Golf Course, and OPEB & Retirement Board Fund and discussed and agreed upon the individual Budgets, subject only to the individual motions for the School Lunch Fund and Retirement Board Fund below.

670 School Lunch Fund - Mr. Ramer motioned to amend the Budget to increase the food expense in the School Lunch Fund by $75,000. It was noted that the revenues would be increased by the same amount so the expected performance of the project is unchanged. Motion seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The Committee voted 4-0.

Retirement - Ms. Moriarty motioned to amend the Budget to add $2,121,000 to the 51490 line for the estimated cost of outside fund management of the Retirement Fund. This expense would be charged back to the Fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0.

FUNDING CHART

The Committee reviewed the Financing and Funding Chart which calculates the mill rate necessary for a balanced budget. The Committee discussed the proposed flat Capital Tax Levy included in the First Selectman's Budget and that it was a change from prior years when the capital tax levy increased to meet the expected average annual maintenance capital level and higher debt service. The Committee discussed the higher level of uncertainty for the Town this year given potential implications of State budget proposals under discussion. Options for additional revenue to the Town to help offset the uncertainty include to decrease the use of fund balance or increase the Capital Tax Levy. Ms. Tarkington noted that if the Capital Tax Levy were increased by $2.24 million, then the resulting mill rate increase of 1.79% would match the rate proposed in the First Selectman's Proposed Budget.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to increase the Capital Tax Levy by $3 million. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The resulting mill rate increase from this change would be 1.99%. The Committee voted 4-0.

Mr. Ramer motioned to reduce the use of the fund balance to $10,600,000, which would result in a mill rate increase of 2.25%. No second.

Mr. Ramer asked if approving the amended FY18 Budget implied that the Committee was approving the Salary Schedules in the last section of the Budget Book, to which Mr. Lash responded that it did not imply that individual salaries were approved.

Ms. Tarkington motioned to accept the final budget as amended. The proposed Operating Budget is $421,783,246, which is lower than FY17. The proposed Capital Budget is $45,236,000. The implied Mill Rate increase in the final budget is 1.99%. Motion seconded by Mr. Lash. The Committee voted 4-0.

Ms. Tarkington and the Committee joined her, in expressing appreciation for the assistance provided by Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Gieger in the preparation and review of the FY18 Budget.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

James A. Lash, Chairman