



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE**

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW FY2021-2022 BUDGET DAY #7 MINUTES

**Hybrid Virtual & Town Hall Meeting Room – 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

Present:

Committee: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Andy Duus, Leslie Moriarty, Jeffrey S. Ramer

Staff: Daniel Carlsen, Senior Business Analyst, Office of the First Selectman (OFS); Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Allison Graham, Employee Benefits Manager, Human Resources Department (HR); Angela Gencarelli, Assistant Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Department (Dept); Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Dept; Jenny Larkin, IT Dept; Erica Mahoney, Assistant Director, HR Dept; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Mary Pepe, Director HR Dept; Maureen Tracy, Chief Accountant, Finance Department

Selectmen: Jill K. Oberlander, Select-person

Board: William Drake, Laura Erickson, Karen Fassuliotis, Miriam Kreuzer, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, David Weisbrod

RTM: Lucia Jansen (D-7) Chair, Budget Overview Committee (BOC); Scott Kalb, (D-7) DPW; Molly Saleeby (D-8) BOC; Dan Ozizmir (D-5) Vice Chair, BOC

Other: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; James Waters

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington called the Meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. and welcomed the audience to the seventh in a series of eleven BET Budget Committee public meetings. Ms. Tarkington introduced members of the BET Budget Committee --- Andy Duus, Leslie Moriarty, and Jeff Ramer. The Committee is also supported by the Finance Department --- Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Director, Angela Gencarelli, Assistant Budget & Systems Manager and Shira Davis, Executive Assistant.

The BET Budget Committee Departmental Review Hearings are operating under the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders and will be conducted by hybrid Zoom. This meeting is being recorded by Zoom. An audio recording will be posted on the Town website. Meetings are being

live broadcast by GCTV on channels 79 and 24 and YouTube. Technical expertise is being provided by Jenny Larkin, and Horst Tebbe. A schedule of the Budget Committee's Departmental Review Hearings is available on the Town website's calendar.

Finance Department

Mr. Mynarski underscored areas of the FY2022 budget presentation that concerned the Committee as they looked at revenues and expenses to reconciled information presented by Department heads and Town financial resources. He cited increases in costs of healthcare, pension, insurance, and post employment benefits; he reminded the Committee of savings anticipated from the CT Healthcare Partnership Plan which was estimated in the Budget Guidelines at a 10% increase year-over-year but is now estimated to be 4%-6%. He reviewed each line item within Fixed Charges. Allison Graham participated in the discussion of health benefits and commented that participants in the health plan weren't using elective benefits during the pandemic lowering the cost basis. Mary Pepe discussed unemployment claims, which are running 30 to 40 per month, which she assumes is stabilized.

Accounting changes suggested as a result of the external auditor's recommendations impact the amortization of the bond premium, which is moved from revenue to offsetting debt service, and employee healthcare contributions, which are moved from revenue to offsetting healthcare expense. The Pension Fund's contribution reflects incorporating the new 5-year Actuarial Experience Study projected trends that influenced the decision to reduce the estimated rate of return on Retirement and Other Post Employment Benefit invested funds to 6.25% increasing contribution costs. As debt was studied, the repayment options were discussed. Mr. Mynarski highlighted FY2022 budget support for the Town's commitment to projects, initiatives, and maintenance of its assets for the Committee to consider.

Assessor's Office

Ms. Elliot, the Town's Assessor, commented on COVID-19's impact on the October 1, 2020 grand list. She explained that despite the increase of residential sales, results expected for the October 1, 2021 revaluation date might find biggest valuation changes in newer construction, and improvements to residential properties such as the addition of swimming pools. Reviewing a list of each of the Town's 12 districts, Ms. Elliott pointed out those where values appreciated, and where the number of sales were taking place could be considered a low current assessment given residential prices being paid. Noting that the loss of revenue from tax-exempted properties valued at \$129 million, growth of the Grand List was slowing compared to 2019 and 2020. She anticipates residential and some commercial growth in the grand list. During the COVID pandemic there have been few commercial sales. The estimated October 1, 2020 Grand List, \$33,638,812,981, used for the FY22 Budget revenues does not include Board of Assessment Appeals anticipated reduction of \$45 million in settlements.

Revenues

The Budget Committee reviewed how the changes being made to the budget schedules was impacting the mill rate. Revenues, as well as surplus revenue, and under spending in expenses were discussed to understand the use of fund balance needed to balance the FY2022 budget. The "top ten" sources of revenue, (including residential and commercial property tax, prior year tax collection, interest on delinquent tax, motor vehicle taxes, and conveyance and permit taxes and fees) were estimated to cover 91% of the Town's Budget without a contribution from the fund balance. In an overview of other sources of revenue, the following were included: state grants

and educational cost-sharing, PILOT returned from the state for tax exempt (hospital) properties, interest earned on investments, and Parks and Recreation recreational use sales.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Tarkington asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Labor Arbitration.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to enter Executive Session at 1:50 P.M. Motion carried.

The Committee exited Executive Session at 2:35 P.M.

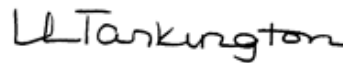
Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to exit the Executive Session at 2:35 P.M. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mr. Duus, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to adjourn the Meeting at 2:36 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair