

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW DAY SEVEN FOR FY2019-2020 BUDGET
MINUTES
Cone Room – 10:00 A.M.
Monday, February 25, 2019**

Present:

- Committee: Leslie Moriarty, Chair; Michael Mason, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington
- Staff: Benjamin Branyan, Town Administrator; Angela Gencarelli, Finance Analyst, Finance Department; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Robert Kick, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Department; Blaise Levant, Senior Business Analyst, OFS; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Larry Roberts, Deputy Chief Training, Fire Department; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department
- Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman
- Board: Jill K. Oberlander, BET Chair; William Drake, Andreas Duus, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Anthony Turner, David Weisbrod
- RTM: Phil Dodson (D8); Jackie Hammock (D6, Finance); Lucia Jansen (D7, BOC); Dan Ozizmir, (D5, BOC), Louisa Stone (D10, Land Use); Joanna Swomley (D10, Town Services)
- Other: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Tracey Schietinger, Director, (GEMS)

Ms. Moriarty called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M. She welcomed the Committee members, staff and members of the public.

CAPITAL PLAN AND FUNDING MODEL (continued from Friday)

Ms. Moriarty began the day's meeting introducing the work of the Debt and Fund Balance Special Project Team. Citing the need to include a Capital Model in the FY20 Budget Book, she noted that the 15-year capital plan chart included in the Budget Book reflects a perspective on the appropriate financing for that plan. She continued that the assumptions in the model included in the First Selectman's recommended budget result in breaches in the BET's debt policy including not having sufficient funds to cover the debt service in certain future years. While the BET Budget Committee is expected to make changes to the 15-year capital plan, it should consider assumptions to be included regarding mill rate and debt maturities. With the assistance of the Finance Department, a capital model was developed that allowed for adjusting capital costs, capital tax levies and debt maturities. The Committee reviewed the results of four models to analyze their feasibility and study their impact. Some members noted that the size of the BOE master plan and several large Town infrastructure projects stress the Town's ability to fund them while keeping the mill rate low, given that there will be other budget pressures on the mill rate. Other members indicated that with some timing changes and some increase in the capital tax levy that the debt maturities do not need to change. The Committee recognized that the change in

funding strategy will require more discussion this year and in future years. The Committee indicated the BET will need to decide how to present the 15-year plan in the budget book.

NORTHWEST FIRE STATION PROPOSAL (follow-up)

Ms. Moriarty introduced the topic by acknowledging the presentation made on February 4th to the Budget Committee and indicated this discussion is a follow-up to the information presented at that meeting. Mr. Branyan presented information, including, estimates for travel time and response time, alternative options for consideration and satisfaction of the RTM Sense of the Meeting Resolution on the NW Fire Station based on scatter-charts of population, call volume and response times from surrounding fire station locations, number of structure fires, cost to staff a new station. The advantages and disadvantages of consolidating career and volunteer fire fighters and GEMS in a renovated Round Hill Fire Station versus the cost of purchasing land, building a new facility, incremental cost of fire fighter staffing, rolling apparatus and other vehicles were reviewed. They advised that five (not four) firefighters are needed for each of the three firefighters that would staff the NW station. Chief Sicienski commented that there are three viable options for a joint Fire and GEMS Station on King Street. Ms. Moriarty concluded that BET members need to decide if they agree there is a problem, and if so, how should it be solved.

Mr. Tesei thanked the Committee for their engagement in studying the problem and considering ways to solve it in response to Greenwich resident needs.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Leslie Moriarty, Chair