

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

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW FY2020-2021 BUDGET DAY #8 MINUTES

**Town Hall Meeting Room – 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

Present:

Committee: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Debra Hess, Leslie Moriarty, Jeffrey S. Ramer

Staff: Benjamin Branyan, Town Administrator, Office of the First Selectman (OFS); Patrick Collins, Environmental Operations Manager, DPW; Lauren Elliott, J.D., LL.M., Assessor, Office of the Assessor; Angela Gencarelli, Ass't. Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Department (Dept.); Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management; Tom Klein, Director, Information Technology Dept.; Blaize Levitan, Senior Business Analyst, OFS; Alan Monelli, Superintendent, Building Construction and Maintenance, DPW; Vincent M. Marino, Town Attorney, Attorney, Cohen & Wolf, P.C. (TOG External Attorney); Peter Mynarski, Comptroller, Finance Dept.; Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs; Patricia Sullivan, Attorney, Cohen & Wolf, P.C.; Megan Zanesky, Esq., Director of Risk Management

Selectmen: Fred Camillo, First Selectman; Jill K. Oberlander, Select-person

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chairman; William Drake, Andreas Duus, Laura Erickson, Miriam Kreuzer, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, David Weisbrod

RTM: Hector Arzeno, (D-8) Finance Committee (Cmte.); Lucia Jansen, (D-7), Budget Overview Committee (BOC), Chair, Labor Contracts Cmte. (LCC); Dan Ozizmir, (D-5) BOC, Vice Chair, LCC, Chair

Other: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Suzanne Brown, RN, Member, Board of Directors, The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW); Patricia Burns, Chairman, Board of Directors, Commission on Aging; Lori Contadino, Director, Commission on Aging; Laurette Helmrich, Administrator, Greenwich Senior Center; Will Kies, Executive Director, Greenwich Land Trust; Michael L. Miller, Treasurer, Board of Directors. Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG); Alma Rutgers, Columnist, *Greenwich Time*; Laurence B. Simon, Chairman, Board of Directors, TNW; Debra Vetromile, Executive Director, TAG

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. She welcomed the Committee members, staff and members of the public.

Commission on Aging

Ms. Contadino, Director, Commission on Aging, provided an overview of the Commission's programs and facilities in the Greenwich Senior Center. Approximately 3,500 registered members

participate in educational classes and lectures, fitness and dining offerings of the Senior Center, the Commission's programs of Medicare Part D selection and Share-a-Ride taxi service. Together with Ms. Byrnes, Chair of the Commission on Aging they appealed for an additional part time clerical person to assist with mandated reporting and tracking program usage. Regarding the capital project, Mr. Monelli explained that the Senior Center building and infrastructure are antiquated, and that the Friends of the Senior Center are sharing the cost of \$450,000 for this year's project, of an overall upgrade anticipated to cost \$1.8 million over the next 5 years. The Commission asked for support with the Senior Center capital projects.

Aquarian Land Acquisition

Ms. Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs and Mr. Kies, Executive Director of the Greenwich Land Trust (GLT), explained the rationale for the purchase of 72 acres of open space, Class 2 water company land available for \$2 million. The parcel is part of an 80-acre parcel that is being sold. The parcel's sale is governed by statutory Public Utility Regulatory Authority regulations, which gives the Town the right of first refusal. The ecologically sensitive parcel has curb appeal, and is located north of the Merritt Parkway on Lake Avenue, Old Mill Road and Cherry Valley Road. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the GLT will establish the GLT's ownership and stewardship with an overlay easement for public access. Ownership of the land would revert to the Town in the event of change from the MOU.

Greenwich Waterfront - Roger Sherman Baldwin Park

The First Selectman presented a project to move ahead with opening the waterfront park as an undeveloped asset for the community, which can be an economic driver for the Town. He described the need for the funding is to continue with refinement of the Master Plan, which is in progress, and to begin the relocation of the Parks & Recreation (P&R) maintenance building. Mr. Camillo, accompanied by Mr. Siciliano and Mr. Monelli, described the plan in two phases, a vision for the park and locating a new home for the Parks and Recreation Department's central Greenwich operations. Mr. Monelli indicated that one of the first steps is to relocate the P&R building, which starts with the identification of the need in a new building and identification of possible locations. Committee members discussed what project scope and funding amount is appropriate to approve given the early state of the project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Tarkington asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Hess, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to enter Executive Session at 10:44 A.M. Motion carried.

The Committee exited Executive Session at 11:15 A.M.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to close the Executive Session at 11:15 A.M. Motion carried.

Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG)

TAG's Board Treasurer, Mr. Miller, described TAG's progress toward profitability after ending the previous fiscal year with excess income of \$50,000 after 2 years of restructuring. He commented on clients, vendors, line-of-credit drawdowns, grants and fundraising. Three vehicles have been

replaced and TAG has invested in new computers and phone system. A profitability model is now in place to measure the cost per hour vs the revenue per hour to evaluate how a new service would meet cash flow needs. One program, Safe Rides, is being evaluated currently and a new phone app is under development to maintain visibility in the student ride option marketplace.

The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW)

Mr. Simon, TNW's Board of Directors Chairman, with Board member, Ms. Brown, described the changes experienced with the assistance of the temporary Executive Director from the Health Dimensions Group (HDG). A revised FY21 budget was presented which anticipated increased revenue, a reduction in overtime costs, reduction in Select Therapy and a modified daytime staffing model, staggered and weekend part time shift staffing. A savings of \$3.1 million is projected, combined with the First Selectman's FY21 budgeted subsidy of \$1.5 million, is designed to demonstrate improved management. A member of the Committee expressed concern that the changes were made in both revenue and expense, rather than only lowering expenses. BET comments ranged from questioning the impact on patients, regaining a 5-star rating standard, the possibility of an Auditor's comment at the time of Greenwich's FY20 Audit, the effect on the Town's AAA rating and interest costs offered during 2021 bond issuance.

Capital Model

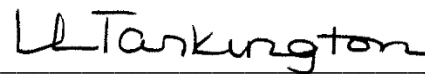
The Committee reviewed the Town's 15-year Capital Budget to study how the First Selectman's proposed FY21 Budget would impact debt levels, debt service and the tax levy. It indicated that BET Policy is exceeded several years out based on the BOE's master plan scheduled over 15 years. Ms. Hess expressed concern about how realistic the projection of cash flows are and noted the BOE's master plan over 15 years and the substantial lag for potential bridge collections. Mr. Gieger was asked to provide a revised model which would allow for changing the timing of capital investments and assumptions, including school and bridge project reimbursement revenue and Public/Private Partnership impact. The model should reflect tax levy, term of debt, size of project and fund balance with offsetting sources as variables

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Hess.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Leslie Tarkington, Budget Committee Chair