TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE

DAY SEVEN - DECISION DAY FOR FY16 BUDGET
MINUTES

Town Hall Meeting Room - 9:00 A.M.
Thursday, February 26, 2015

Present:

Committee: Marc V. Johnson, Chairman; Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Jeff Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Staff: Peter Mynarski Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Maureen Tracy, Financial Administration; Alan Monelli, Superintendent Building Maintenance and Construction

Selectmen: First Selectman, Peter Tesei; Selectman, Drew Marzullo; John Toner, Selectman

Other: John Crary, Town Administrator; Barbara O’Neill, Chairman, BOE; Steve Warzoha, RTM Member

Board: Michael Mason, Chairman; John Blankley William Drake, William Finger, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Nancy Weissler

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M.

Mr. Johnson welcomed the public and explained that his goal was to make Decision Day as efficient as possible. He thanked members of the Committee for their thoughtful contributions to discussions and hoped they were ready to conclude the process with Decisions. He noted that the Minutes would only reflect motions made on specific items. Unless otherwise noted, each item would be considered accepted and forwarded to the full BET for their reviews and votes.

OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE

Prior Year Taxes - Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $145,000 to this revenue item, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Interest on Tax Delinquency - Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $150,000 to this revenue item, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Conveyance Fees - Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $250,000 to this revenue item, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Building Permits - Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $250,000 to this revenue item, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.
Skate Park Revenues - Mr. Johnson made a motion to defer voting on the revenue portion of this capital project until the Committee votes on the capital appropriation later in the meeting, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Pilot Tax-Exempt - Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $100,000 to this revenue item, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Encumbrances - Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $100,000 to encumbrances returned to the Town, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

OPEB - Mr. Johnson made a motion to defer voting on the revenue associated with this fixed charge until the Committee votes on the contribution to OPEB later in the meeting, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Assessor’s Office Tax Settlements - Mr. Johnson made a motion to increase Tax Settlements by $250,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Senior Tax Relief - Mr. Johnson made a motion to increase Senior Tax Relief funds by $45,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

OPERATING BUDGET

General Government

Historic District Commission – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to delete $25,000 from Parks & Recreation and fund $25,000 to a new item, “375th Anniversary, Inc.”, under External Entities, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Office of the First Selectman – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to reduce the salary increases of the First Selectman and Selectmen by $809 from a 2.5% increase to a 2% increase, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Tax Collector – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to reduce the salary increase by $1,200 from a 2.5% increase to a 0% increase, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Johnson, Tarkington) Ms. Tarkington made a motion to reduce the salary increase by $480 from a 2.5% increase to a 2% increase, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1 to approve. (Opposed: Kiernan) Additionally, Mr. Ramer made a motion to reduce the Temporary Salary line item by $5,000, seconded by Ms. Kiernan. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Town Clerk – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to reduce the salary increase by $480 from a 2.5% increase to a 2% increase, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Ramer made a motion to reduce the Temporary Salary line item by $600, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Fire Department – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete 9 firefighters, position upgrades, stipends, OT and all affected object codes by $660,133, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. Mr. Ramer amended the motion to add back 8 firefighters, seconded by Ms. Kiernan. The
Committee voted 1-3. Motion to amend failed. (Opposed: Johnson, Tarkington, Kiernan) The Committee voted 3-1 on the original motion. (Opposed: Ramer)

**Police Department** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to delete the new Coordinator position, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 1-3. Motion failed. (Opposed Ramer, Kiernan, Johnson)

**DPW** – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to add $6,000 for longevity payments, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

**Health Department** – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to delete $2,690 in the overtime line item, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $35,250 salary for a part time Health Educator, seconded by Ms. Kiernan. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Mr. Johnson made a motion to add back $7,580 for temporary salaries, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

**External Entities** – Mr. Johnson made a motion to add $85,000 for the Teen Talk program for the third middle school, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Additionally, Ms. Kiernan made a motion to add $10,000 to Youth Services for programming, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1 to approve. (Opposed: Tarkington)

**Libraries** – Mr. Johnson made a motion to reduce $28,737 from the Greenwich Library budget, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Additionally, Mr. Johnson made a motion to reduce $15,000 from the Perrot Library budget, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

**Parks & Recreation** – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to reduce $19,500 from the overtime line item, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Then Mr. Ramer made a motion to add back $32,000 to clean public bathrooms, seconded by Ms. Kiernan. The Committee voted 1-3. Motion failed. (Opposed: Johnson, Tarkington, Kiernan)

**FIXED CHARGES**

**Employment Benefits** – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to reduce the OPEB contribution by $1,645,000, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 3-1 to approve. (Opposed: Ramer)

**Healthcare Administration** – Mr. Ramer made a motion to reduce $100,000 from the line item, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

**OPEB** – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to reduce $463,000 from OPEB revenues, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

**Sewer Maintenance Fund** – Mr. Ramer made a motion to add $6,000 for longevity payments, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

**School Lunch Fund** – No motion. Conditioning language for Appropriation to be drafted before BET Meeting March 19, 2015.

**CAPITAL BUDGET**

*BET Budget Decision Day FY 2016*

*February 26, 2015 – Approved*
General Government

Information Technology – Mr. Johnson made a motion to reduce the Applications Upgrade line item by $30,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Ms. Tarkington made a second motion to reduce the Website Design appropriation by $45,000, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Additionally, Ms. Tarkington made a motion to reduce the Network Resiliency line item by $30,000, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Police – Mr. Ramer made a motion to delete the Dive Team Equipment Replacement of $18,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 1-3. Motion failed. (Opposed: Kiernan, Tarkington, Johnson) Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete the Laser Scanner item of $81,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Mr. Ramer then made a motion to delete the Long-Range Acoustical Device of $15,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Binney Park – Mr. Ramer made a motion to move $100,000 forward from FY17 budget to begin environmental testing in FY16, seconded by Ms. Kiernan. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Tarkington, Johnson)

Silva Cell Tree Well – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $240,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. Ms. Kiernan made a motion to amend the original motion to delete $140,000 leaving $100,000 to allow for soil testing, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Tarkington, Johnson). Per the original motion, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Asphalt Road Paving – Mr. Ramer made a motion to increase the line item by $1,000,000, seconded by Ms. Kiernan. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Tarkington, Johnson)

Sidewalk Construction - Mr. Johnson made a motion to decrease the line item by $50,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan).

Stormwater Drainage – Mr. Johnson made a motion to reduce the appropriation by $500,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan) Mr. Ramer then made a motion to reduce of the appropriation by $250,000, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Tarkington, Kiernan)

Strickland Brook Study – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $250,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan)

Holly Hill Master Plan – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $875,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan).

GHS Soil Remediation – Mr. Johnson made a motion to reduce the appropriation by $1,500,000, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.
Byram Park Pool Project – Ms. Tarkington made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to support the project with $1,657,000 for soil remediation, building demotion and additional design. The Committee voted 1-3 (opposed Johnson, Ramer, Kiernan). Motion failed. Mr. Ramer made a motion to reduce the appropriation to $9,500,000, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson moved to amend this motion by conditioning release of construction funds on A&E acceptable to BET with new project estimates based on 90% completed plans and with the submission of an alternative schematic plan for the pool facilities at a price of approximately $6 million, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1 to approve this amendment (Opposed: Kiernan). Ms. Tarkington made a motion to amend Mr. Ramer's motion with annual reporting by Junior League on the results of its fundraising, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 1-3 (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan, Johnson). Motion failed. Following further discussion and input from Junior League representatives, Mr. Mason and Mr. Finger, and the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the original motion, as amended. Mr. Johnson indicated that he would work on refining the conditions and present them to the full BET.

Fleet – Mr. Johnson made a motion to reduce $155,000 of new vehicle purchases, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

New Lebanon School – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to reduce $380,000 from the budget for the school design, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee discussed various aspects of the project including environmental testing and site selection. Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Kiernan and Ms. Tarkington to work on refining the conditions to be attached to this appropriation based on clarification of the Municipal Improvement process that Mr. Fox and a number of Department Heads were currently reviewing. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Board of Education Capital Projects – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete the following items from the BOE budget: $125,000 for gym windows at OG School; $50,000 for windows at Riverside School; and $300,000 for ceiling and lighting work at Riverside School. This was seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan)

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $100,000 for automated ticket dispensing machines, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Cardinal Stadium – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $30,000 from the project, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Artificial Turf for Middle School Fields – Ms. Kiernan made a motion to add $40,000 for a study to analyze the feasibility of replacing the present fields, seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Johnson, Tarkington)

Skate Park – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to reduce the $130,000 appropriation by $100,000 and leave $30,000 for planning and design work, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan). Mr. Johnson indicated that he would have another conversation with Mr. Siciliano to clarify details of the proposed project. Mr. Ramer made a motion to increase revenues in Parks and Recreation from the maintenance fund for the Skate Park by $121,846, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Parks & Rec Vehicle Purchase – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete a tractor costing $43,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.
Greenwich Point Invasive Plant Removal – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $25,000 from the project, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Grass Island Maintenance & Parking – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $50,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 3-1 to approve. (Opposed: Kiernan)

Island Beach Sidewalk Replacement – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $125,000 from the project, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve. Mr. Johnson will ask Mr. Siciliano if there is a balance of FEMA funds that can be transferred to the project.

Sewer Pump Removal – Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $50,000 for the replacement of the Byram Park pump, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Nathaniel Witherell Capital Projects – Ms. Tarkington expressed concern that over $34 million in capital had been appropriated to the facility since 2008 and she was not in favor of the full capital request for $1.53 million. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the request for Nursing Medical Equipment ($30,000), Water Line Replacement ($164,000), Renovation of Four Tower Floors ($1,025,800) and Tower Rooms ($219,000), seconded by Mr. Ramer. The Committee voted 3-1 to approve. (Opposed: Tarkington) Mr. Johnson made a motion to delete $66,600 for the renovation of the Board Room, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Holly Hill Sewer Rehabilitation – Ms. Tarkington made a motion to delete $2.25 million from the Sewer Maintenance Fund budget, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan).

CAPITAL TAX LEVY

Mr. Johnson made a motion to add back $2.45 million to the Capital Tax levy, seconded by Ms. Tarkington. The Committee voted 2-2. Motion failed. (Opposed: Ramer, Kiernan) Mr. Mason commented that this would be a decision on fund balance usage or increased borrowing. He suggested that fund balance could be applied to OPEB or other appropriations. Ms. Kiernan commented that this model was ten years old and in the low interest rate environment, the mill rate increase could be 2.03% if the Capital Tax Levy increase wasn't added back.

Mr. Ramer made a motion to approve an overall budget of $406,254,477 as of 2/26/15, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Mynarski, Mr. Geiger and the Finance Department for their assistance with the Budget process. He also commended all of the Town, BOE and Appointing Authority Department Heads for their hard work and dedication in preparing their budgets.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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February 26, 2015 – Approved