

**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
DECISION DAY TWO FY12 BUDGET  
MINUTES  
Cone Room – 11:30 A.M.  
Thursday, March 10, 2011**

Present:

Committee: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington

Staff: Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Dustin Anderson, Executive Assistant to First Selectman, Drew Marzullo, Selectman; Genny Krob, RTM Member; John Blankley, RTM Member, Steve Warzoha, RTM Member, Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Board: Nancy Barton, Joseph Pellegrino, Jeff Ramer, Art Norton

Mr. Mason called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM.

Mr. Gieger started the meeting by informing the Committee that account A911-57500 – Assessments, Taxes would have to be increase by \$60,000 based on changes made at the previously held BET Budget Committee Decision Day One meeting.

There was a discussion on the Department 161 – Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals new revenues of \$100,000 (A161-44220). Ms. Tarkington questioned the amount, based on statements made previously by Ms. Diane Fox, Town Planner. There was no change made.

Mr. Mason asked everyone to turn to the Mill Rate Calculation page in the budget book. Mr. Simon reported that the Tax Settlements would need to be increased to \$1,200,000 and questioned why the negative amounts for Certificates of Correction were so large. It was decided to follow up on investigating negative Certificates of Correction being processed in the Assessor's office.

The Committee discussed the process of using fund balance to balance the budget. Mr. Simon led a discussion of previous and projected General Fund balance amounts.

Mr. Gieger compiled and distributed to the Committee, "Budget Conditions upon Department Requests" document. There was an extended discussion on the budget conditions being recommended to the full Board of Estimate and Taxation by the Budget Committee. Included in the discussions, was the proper wording needed to communicate the intent of the conditions. Included in the conditions were actions effecting the following departments; Information Technology, Tax Collector, Assessor, Town Clerk, Board of Assessment Appeals, Fire Department, Public Works and Nathaniel Witherell. As was previously mentioned in discussions, the Committee recognized that they can only recommend to the full BET, and not vote on the conditions proposed.

Mr. Mason then discussed the operating and capital financing models and a discussion ensued under different financing scenarios. Mr. Mason directed Mr. Gieger to update the operating and capital models and to include them in the budget book.

Mr. Mason invited Ms. Barton to join the Committee and she presented her resolutions for FY12 with all of the proposed changes highlighted. Ms. Barton informed the Committee that the GHS MISA project had its own resolution, due to the unique funding potentials for the project. The resolutions were reviewed by all and minor grammatical changes were made.


The Budget Committee recommended a General Fund budget of \$358,057,524 and a mill rate increase of 3.62% of which 0.75% represents growth in the Grand List.

Mr. Simon welcomed comments on the budget message. Mr. Finger indicated that the message should be clear in describing the actions of the Budget Committee regarding the dollar increase for the Board of Education. Mr. Simon agreed. Mr. Simon strongly stated that the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) process needs addressing in two areas; 1) installing a "Gatekeeper" at the beginning of the process to weed out unnecessary or inflated projects and 2) the overall CIP process needs to be changed in light of scoring projects overall with no cuts to the total submitted.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,

  
Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

  
Michael S. Mason, Chairman