

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Cone Room, Town Hall

Committee

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

Staff: Benjamin Branyan, Town Administrator, Office of the First Selectman (OFS); Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Management Director; James Heavey, Chief, Police Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Board: Michael Mason, Chairman; Andreas Duus, Laura Erickson, Karen Fassuliotis, Miriam Kreuzer, Elizabeth K. Krumeich

BOE/GPS: Peter Bernstein, Chairman, Board of Education (BOE); Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, GPS; Sean O’Keefe, COO, GPS; Dan Watson, Director of Facilities, GPS

Public: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; David Chass, Vice President, Round Hill Volunteer Fire Company; Russ Davidson, Architect, KG&D Architects, PC

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M.

REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
PD-2	Police	Approval to Use
\$29,988	F21717 51100	Overtime Services & Benefits

Chief Heavey requested permission to accept a CT Department of Transportation Highway Safety Grant of \$29,988 for “FY20 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement” overtime. The Grant funds enforcement patrols targeting motorists who ignore CT’s cell phone, electronic device use and other laws regarding driving while distracted and will take place in the months of April and August. The overtime will be fully reimbursed, and the Town will have no additional obligation.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the use of the \$29.998 State Grant and recommend the Application to the full BET as a Routine Application. Motion carried.

FD-1	Fire Department	Release of Conditions
\$800,000	B206 59560 2011	Round Hill Station Renovation

Mr. Chass requested the BET release of funds conditioned upon BET confirmation of a signed contract between the Town and the property owner, which documents the terms of the Town’s participation in the Project. Mr. Branyan has guided the Round Hill Voluntary Fire Company through the P&Z, Inland Wetlands, and Health Department approval processes. The Committee

requested an update to the Budget Committee on the renovation project during construction. Mr. Branyan explained that this is the first time that standards for a volunteer company have been documented. Mr. Mynarski confirmed that the Finance Department could meet the tight deadlines for reimbursement payments in the Agreement.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Hess, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the release of Conditions on \$800,000 for the renovation of the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Company station and recommend the Application to the full BET as a Routine Application. Motion carried.

ED-10	BOE	Release of Conditions
\$1,055,000	B680 1680 59560 20162	Cardinal Field Improvement

Mr. Davidson requested the release of the balance of the \$1,175,000 less \$120,000 already released. He explained that \$1,055,000 would facilitate the completion of Phase 1 (home side bleachers with press box, ADA accessibility including an elevator, team room, rest room, entry kiosk and handicap parking) by GHS' first Home Game on September 19, 2020. He advised there is no stadium in Fairfield County with visiting team room facilities. A construction schedule was reviewed with the Committee and deadlines for receiving the Board of Selectman Municipal Improvement (MI) status and P&Z approval was considered. BOE Chairman Bernstein commented that the Administration is favoring a restructuring of the sequence of the Project to proceed with the home bleachers, press box, lights and parking, but holds in abeyance the visitors' bleachers and building, because the latter would appear to require certain land use approvals and separating them might make it possible to have the home bleachers and related components of the Project completed for the Fall. The BOE and Chairman Bernstein acknowledged it is an aggressive timeline but one that they hope they meet. The project will require a P&Z Zone Map change and a height variance. The IWWA Director has signed off and did not take the project approval to the Agency, while the visiting team improvements would require Agency approval. The Greenwich Athletic Foundation fundraising progress was questioned as no written report was submitted, and the Committee was advised that the GAF intends to raise \$1 million if all their conditions for the stadium are met. The Committee asked for additional information about Phase 2's timetable and funding expectations. Concern was expressed about the lack of defined guidelines and policy for public private partnership projects.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Hess, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the release of Conditions on \$1,055,000 for the Cardinal Field Improvements and recommend the Application to the full BET as a Non-Routine Application. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to add an item, BOE Operating Budget, under the NEW BUSINESS header. Motion carried.

- **BOE Operating Budget**

The Committee reviewed the BOE's spending run rate and asked GPS CFO O'Keefe about current and anticipated spending for SPED outplacement tuition and transportation. Various controls, the upcoming SPED study on student needs and fulfillment. Comparable towns' expenditures and revolving funds were considered.

- **Discussion of Economic Conditions**

Budget & Systems Management Director Gieger presented an overview of TOG revenues for the first eight-months of FY2020 compared to FY 2017, FY2018, FY2019. His Report tracked expenses in comparison to previous actuals and future projections. He commented that conveyance tax revenues were still behind previous year, but building permits were improved. Mr. Gieger suggested the possibility that a shortfall might occur by fiscal yearend. The Committee asked if next month's spending run rate report could be formatted by department.

- **Bridge Appropriations, Spending Reimbursements**

The Committee reviewed the length of time to obtain, spend and get reimbursed for bridge appropriations. The Committee asked for a future tracking report to also include the amount of reimbursement identified at the time of approval, identification of front-loaded reimbursement projects, and sources of funding for each.

Acceptance of the BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to accept the Regular BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2020 as amended for scrivener errors. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

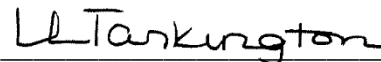
The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:34 P.M. Motion carried.

Next Regular Meeting of the BET Budget Committee is scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. in the Cone Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Leslie L. Tarkington, Budget Committee Chair