Jill Oberlander, BET Chair, called the Workshop to order at 5:05 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Jill K. Oberlander, Chair
Jeffrey S. Ramer, Vice Chairman
Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Clerk
William Drake
Andreas Duus III
Karen Fassuliotis
Debra Hess
Michael S. Mason
Leslie Moriarty
Leslie L. Tarkington
Anthony Turner
David Weisbrod (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

Selectman: Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller, Finance Department

Other: Peter Bernstein, Chairman, Board of Education; Arline Lomazzo, D-6, Representative Town Meeting, Chair, RTM Public Works Committee; Ralph Mayo, Interim Superintendent of Schools

The Chair welcomed BET Members and attendees to the Workshop of the BET.

1. 2019-2020 Budget Discussion

There were introductory remarks from the Chair. Ms. Oberlander reviewed the voting protocol for the up-coming Budget Decision Day Meeting. The Chair requested that members of the Board submit any proposed amendments to Board members as soon as possible so that fellow members would have an opportunity to consider the amendments.

Members discussed an amendment to add an employee to the Purchasing Department and reduce an employee from the Board of Education’s (BOE) Table of Organization to centralize policies, procedures and protocols for construction project management and maintenance processes. Mr. Bernstein reminded the Board that it was not the Board’s responsibility to determine the BOE Table of Organization. Members were asked by Mr. Mayo to move forward according to the blumshapiro report. He noted that the BOE intended to restructure BOE IT during the summer. Mr. Tesel discussed the standardization of the process and the objective
of meeting industry standards for construction project management.

The Board took up a proposed amendment to add revenue to the Town from funds from BOE grant fund to cover the health and employee benefit costs for employees hired pursuant to educational grants. The grant fund should be covering benefit costs which have been increasing yet the amount paid by the grant fund has been unchanged.

The members discussed the various options being proposed and reviewed regarding the three phases of the Greenwich High School Cardinal Field Improvements Capital Project. There appeared to be a lack of clarity on the amendments as proposed relating to this Project to renovate and improve Cardinal Stadium. Members discussed the three phases being proposed, the amount of money that should be subject to release for Phase I, and the conditions for release. Ms. Oberlander requested Mr. Mason to prepare an amendment reflecting his proposal prior to the BET Budget Decision Day meeting.

Members then discussed the proposed motion to add funds to the Finance Department Budget for an additional $350,000 for cyber security, BOE construction management, invoice processing and a fire study. Much of the discussion centered on a potential fire study to address fire response times.

An amendment to reinstate funds for the Police Marine Division was discussed.

Budget Resolutions were discussed briefly with minor edits being offered.

There were no actions taken at this meeting.

Ms. Oberlander concluded the meeting by saying she looked forward to a collegial and collaborative budget effort on BET Budget Decision Day.

2. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 7:20 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

Elizabeth K. Krumelich, Clerk of the Board

Jill K. Oberlander, Chair