



**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.**

**Committee**

**Present:** Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Nisha Arora, Laura Erickson, Leslie Moriarty

**Staff:** Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department;  
Charlie Lubowicki, Assistant Fire Chief

**Board:** Harry Fisher, Jeff Ramer

**BOE/Schools:** Joe Kelly, Chair, Board of Education; Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent; Blaize Levitan, Chief Operations Officer; Jonathan Supranowitz, Director of Communications; Dan Watson, Director of Facilities

**Other:** Don Conway, GCTV

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**1. Request for Budget Adjustments**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<u>ED-4</u>	<u>BOE</u>	<u>\$1,100,000</u>	<u>Interim Appropriation</u>
	A6201753 52080		Special Education Out of District Tuition & Settlements

Dr. Jones and Mr. Levitan presented this request. Mr. Levitan explained the deficit in out of district tuition is currently \$1.1 million and is anticipated to be an additional \$561,175 by the end of June, due to pending settlements. Schools received the first payment of State SPED Excess Cost Sharing grant of \$967,000 and is waiting for a second payment for expected total grants of between \$1.3 million and \$1.6 million. Once Schools reach the 4.5 times excess student education costs, is when the reimbursement program is activated, and State reimbursement is calculated. One cause of the account deficit is tuition increases, another is moving students from non-State approved schools (non-reimbursable) to State-approved schools (reimbursable).

A Committee member asked how Schools plan to absorb the \$561,000 of Special Education deficit between that requested and expected expenses for the year. Mr. Levitan advised that they have frozen non-essential spending effective March 20<sup>th</sup> in a district budget freeze and

should be able to absorb the deficit with funds from other areas/accounts. Dr. Jones stated that settlements have gone down, due to recent programs Dr. Stacey Heiligenthaler has put in place. Another Committee member echoed concern about the BOE coming in over budget for this fiscal year, causing the BOE to come before the BET and RTM in May and June, respectively to request additional funding. The Chair clarified with Mr. Gieger that the BOE can come to the BET in July and RTM in September If budget increases are needed. Mr. Gieger advised against spending over budget in FY22-23.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate \$1,100,000 from General Fund Balance for Greenwich Public Schools Special Education Out of District Tuition & Settlements. Motion carried as a Routine matter.

<b>ED-5</b>	<b>BOE</b>	<b>\$ 545,000</b>	<b>Interim Appropriation</b>
Z680 59560			Havemeyer Flood Damage & Overtime

Mr. Levitan and Mr. Watson explained how the Saturday, February 4, 2023, incident in the Havemeyer Building occurred, due to a pipe joint failure on the third floor, as a result of an original construction issue attributed to lack of joint soldering, causing heavy flooding and damage below. Damaged spaces had to be tested, abated, and treated due to the presence of lead paint and asbestos. Due to the activation of a motion monitor failure in the building's fire alarm system, the Fire Department responded and witnessed flooding. Mr. Watson explained that the chilled air unit that failed was installed over 25 years ago. They have no knowledge of who installed the HVAC units, which have been slowly taken out of service, as there are no valve shutoffs. This unit was the last in the Havemeyer Building. The interim funding requested is to cover the building damage restoration costs of initial response, rebuilding the board room, equipment, furniture, and abatement costs. The lower-level space will have basic refurbishment, but not specifically for a print shop. The Committee also discussed the insurance deductible of \$100,000, and rising property insurance and the increasing SIR costs.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate \$545,000 from Capital Non-Recurring for Greenwich Public Schools Havemeyer Building Flood Damage and Overtime. Motion carried as a Nonroutine matter.

<b>ED-6</b>	<b>BOE</b>	<b>\$ 235,000</b>	<b>Interim Appropriation</b>
Z680 59210			Print Shop Restoration

Mr. Levitan separated equipment and supplies into two requests and clarified that working with Mr. Gieger this item, ED-6, is a capital request for machines and equipment for full print shop operation. A subject to release condition was proposed by Schools Administration, modified by Budget Committee members, and is mutually proposed. Mr. Levitan mentioned that they have a meeting in the upcoming week with Mr. Romano and Mr. O'Hurley of the Town's Building Construction & Maintenance Division (BC&M) to discuss possible relocation options for the BOE Print Shop. The options for restoration were read off by Mr. Levitan as well as the proposed conditions on print shop operation and location, if applicable. The options of rebuilding if they go that route, keeping the shop in-house at Havemeyer, or moving the print shop operation to Town Hall, will be discussed at the meeting with BC&M next week.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate \$235,000 from Capital Non-Recurring for Greenwich Public Schools Print Shop Restoration due to flood damage with the recommended

following Condition. Motion carried as a Nonroutine matter.

*Subject to release upon review and acceptance by the BET of a report providing a financial and operational analysis of outsourcing the Print Shop operation, an Action Plan for the print shop function, and a proposed permanent location for the print shop operation, if applicable.*

<b>ED-7</b>	<b>BOE</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>Interim Appropriation</b>
	A6201791 53010		Printing Supplies

This request is for operating costs to replace the print shop office furniture, equipment and setup, and inventory and supplies. These are operating supplies for the print shop restoration, whether in full or partially in hybrid. The Committee was advised in response to a question that the property insurance is covering certain interim costs of operation.

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate \$40,000 from General Fund balance for Greenwich Public Schools Printing Supplies lost due to flood damage together with the following recommended condition Motion carried as a Nonroutine matter:

*Subject to release upon review and acceptance by the BET of a report providing a financial and operational analysis of outsourcing the Print Shop operation, an Action Plan for the print shop function, and a proposed permanent location for the print shop operation, if applicable.*

<b>FD-3</b>	<b>Fire Dept</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>Transfer</b>
	A208 57100		Healthcare Costs

Assistant Chief Lubowicki requested this transfer of funds to cover costs for additional volunteer firefighters that have opted to take individual healthcare insurance offered to volunteers. The healthcare cost rates change in May, so they might see a change in cost.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to transfer \$10,000 from various accounts to cover increased healthcare costs for volunteer fire firefighters. Motion carried as a Routine matter.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

### **• Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger presented the Economic Conditions Report to the Committee. He commented on lower conveyance tax and building permit revenues, and increased interest revenue due to increasing rates.

While Public Works expenses increased by \$560,000, Mr Gieger reminded that annual maintenance costs had been transferred from capital into operating; RTM costs are up 233% due to implementation of electronic voting. Increases in the Fire Department are due to sick and vacation payouts to retirees and Finance will move expenses above those budgeted into Fixed Charges. The Police Department has an increase in spending due to additional police at the schools. TNW is spending \$1.8 million more this year to date than its budget.

Revenue is approximately where the Town was last year when adjusted for inflation impact in

real estate taxes, and the three revenue items previously noted: Bridge and CMAQ funds are down from last year due to timing.

### **Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the BET Budget Committee Regular Meeting of March 9, 2023, the BET Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

### **3. Adjournment**

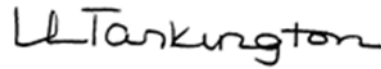
Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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Shira Davis, Recording Secretary



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Leslie L. Tarkington, Budget Cmte Chair

The next Regular Meeting of the BET Budget Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.