TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

REGULAR MEETING

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Cone Meeting Room

April 12, 2005

Present:

Committee: Valeria P. Storms, Chairman
Jara Burnett, Laurence Simon, Stephen Walko

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget
Director; Chief Walters, Police Department; Caroline
Baisley, Health Department; Christine Clark, Ray
Augustine, Nathaniel Witherell, Ed Gomeau, Town
Administrator

Board: Peter Berg, Michael Mason, Alma Rutgers, Peter Tesei

Board Ex- Officio: Jim Lash, First Selectman

Other: Josh Brown, Chairman, RTM Finance Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

PD-1 POLICE DEPARTMENT – Approval to Use - $17,370

Request for approval to use:

$17,118 to F217-51100 Overtime Services
$ 252 to F217-57050 Benefits
$17,370 from Federal Highway Safety Grant

The grant providing these funds is a 75% matching fund grant to be used for the 2005 Memorial Day/Fourth of July DUI Enforcement Program. Chief Walters presented a revised application showing fringe benefits being charged to the grant application.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the request and forward the application to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.
L-1  HEALTH – Transfer - $10,464

Request to transfer:
$ 3,802 to F403-52020 Printing and Binding
$ 6,662 to F403-53250 Medical, Surgical, Laboratory
$ 9,409 from F403-51970 Prior Yr. Expenditures
$ 1,055 from F403-54970 Prior Yr. Expenditures

Caroline Baisley requested a transfer of grant money between major object codes. A question arose regarding the prior year expenditure accounts. It was explained that these titles are left over from a time when health grants were included in the General Fund. The money in these accounts will be transferred to accounts with appropriate descriptions.

The committee voted unanimously to accept the request to transfer the grant funds and forward the application to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

NW-1 NATHANIEL WITHERELL – Transfer - $17,862

Request to transfer:
$ 17,862 to A45051-56280 Insurance Expense
$ 17,862 from A45066-51420 Professional Medical Dental

Christine Clark explained the need to transfer funds to TNW’s insurance line, because the actual costs were higher than the budget. Mr. Simon noted that the application contained a transposition error and asked for a corrected sheet to be available for the full BET mailing.

Mr. Walko asked how many insurers offered this type of coverage and requested information regarding the process used by Frenkel in procuring this insurance. The comptroller promised to get the information for the BET meeting.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the transfer of funds and forward the application to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for consideration as a routine application.

ED-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION – Approval to Use/Appropriation - $3,000

Request for approval to use:
$ 1,000 to A6200468-51060 New Lebanon School
$ 1,000 to A6200668-51060 Julian Curtiss School
$ 1,000 to A6200968-51060 IS Dundee School
$ 3,000 from Grant
This application was withdrawn by the BOE.

CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS

The committee discussed the capital projects status report prepared by Anthony Giovannone. An appropriation statement for the projects was also distributed by the comptroller. The committee recognized that the two reports, while showing spending, did not provide information regarding present completion. Mr. Lash thought that it was premature to worry about departments not starting projects before year-end and was confident that the departments would do what is required to avoid losing their money.

BUDGET PROCESS POLICY

The committee discussed the policy as presented and made some minor changes before unanimously approving the amended version. Mr. Tesei commented on the possibility that the Policy Committee may be disbanded. Mr. Walko did not want to use the vote on this policy to turn into a vote on whether to keep the Policy Committee.

Josh Brown requested that the calendar be modified to include the meetings with the First Selectman and the Budget Committee chairman where there can be constructive dialogue regarding the budget. After some discussion it was agreed to amend the policy to add meetings in October, January, and March that have been planned for the upcoming budget cycle.

Upon a motion by Mr. Walko, seconded by Mr. Simon, the committee voted unanimously to approve the policy as amended.

Peter Tesei asked that the amended policy be included in the BET mailing and requested that the changes be highlighted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Walko, the committee voted unanimously to approve, as submitted, the minutes of:

- Regular Meeting February 15, 2005
- Departmental Reviews February 10, 2005
- Decision Day Meeting February 24, 2005
- Special Meeting March 15, 2005
- Regular Meeting March 15, 2005

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria P. Storms
Valeria P. Storms, Chairman