

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES – Town Hall Meeting Room

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Committee

Present: Jim Lash, Chairman; Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Chief James Heavey, Police Department (by phone); J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Joseph Siciliano, Director Parks & Recreation; Al Monelli, DPW, Superintendent Building

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chairman; John Blankley, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Leslie Moriarty, Arthur Norton, Jill Oberlander, Nancy Weissler

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; John Toner, Selectman

Other: Barbara O'Neill, Vice Chairman, BOE; Jim Hricay, BOE Managing Director of Operations; Deborah Applebaum, Member, BOE; Steven Walko, Chairman New Lebanon Building Committee; Chris Alexander, Nathaniel Witherell Director of Financial Operations; Lucia Jansen, RTM Member, BOC Chairman; Debbie Lash (Mrs. James Lash), Junior League Fundraising Committee

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

Mr. Lash welcomed attendees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of Pending Litigation

Executive Session

Mr. Lash called for an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 5:03 P.M.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4-0 to enter Executive Session at 5:03 P.M.

The Committee exited Executive Session at 6:29 P.M.

The Committee voted 4-0 to end the Executive Session at 6:29 P.M.

Request for Budget Adjustments

NW-3	Nathaniel Witherell	Transfer
\$595,000	H5110, 53250, 54050	Personal services, supply and Maintenance

Ms. Kiernan asked Mr. Alexander to correct the account numbers for source and destination categories for the transferred funds and return it so that it could be included in materials for the April 18th Board of Estimate and Taxation Meeting.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the application and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Non-Routine Application.

<u>ED-6</u>	<u>BOE</u>	<u>Approval to Use</u>
\$13,080	F607 1641 53100 & 52100	Asia Society Confucius Classroom Grants

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the application and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Routine Application.

<u>ED-7</u>	<u>BOE</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
\$10,000	A620 53520 & 5410	Release of Data Equipment & Maintenance

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the application and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Routine Application.

<u>ED-8</u>	<u>BOE</u>	<u>Release of Conditions</u>
\$1,850,000	B680 59560 16166	New Lebanon School Design

Application withdrawn.

<u>PW-3</u>	<u>DPW</u>	<u>Release of Conditions</u>
\$8,010,000	B345 59830 16157	Byram Master Plan Construction

Mr. Siciliano and Mr. Monelli commented that 6 vendors had bid on the project; the low bid was \$6,823,013. Cost-saving alternatives had been proposed, including a wall, a change to the gutter system, the Pool Building's exterior finish and pool filter system. The project as bid still fit within the P&Z approved plan and maintained its 10% contingency Ms. Tarkington expressed disappointment that the alternatives were insufficient to lower the cost in substitution to a second alternative and bid as was suggested by Mr. Monelli at the October 2015 meeting with the Budget Committee. A soft opening of the pool is anticipated for August, 2017. Members of the Committee commented on aspects of the project's future operating costs. A representative of the Junior League, Mrs. Lash, described the League's fundraising efforts to meet their pledged donation for the project; as the Junior League provided no written update due to the fact that their capital fundraising effort is in the quiet phase. Ms. Tarkington requested that the insurance Process Engineer's Report, and the detailed bid be included in the April 18th BET meeting packet. She also asked that the Police Chief or his designee review the plans for security as the pools and deck have more than seven times the capacity of the existing pool.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the application and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Non-Routine application.

<u>BA-1</u>	<u>Board of Assessment Appeals</u>	<u>Additional Appropriation</u>
\$5,000	A136 54190	Professional Fees

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the application and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a Routine application.

Old Business

- Discussion of New Lebanon School Project - Postponed.
- FY17 Budget – Early RTM Feedback – BET members were in the process of meeting with RTM Districts and Committees. Postponed.

New Business

- **FY18 Budget Guidelines** - Mr. Lash suggested that the FY18 Budget Guidelines could be prepared over the summer in preparation for September's monthly meeting. He reviewed some of the issues that would have an impact on the operating forecast for FY17 such as declining revenues from the State ECS program and possible Grand List reduction. Additionally, items such as increasing healthcare benefit, contractual salaries and pension costs would be components of the FY18 planning process. He reviewed possible options for funding FY18 and changes that still might be required to balance the FY17 Budget such as cutting spending, raising taxes and taking additional money from the fund balance. He noted that the RTM's discussion of term-length for future bonding programs was just beginning. The Committee members contributed additional comments to the discussion. As an example, any BOE busing study or plan should be inclusive of both the public and the private school routes for efficiency and potential cost savings. Ms. Kiernan noted several other variables in the FY 18 budget, including the deficit left in the Nathaniel Witherell Fund from FY 17 and the teachers' contract that will be negotiated this summer. Ms Kiernan requested an update of the Comptroller's 10-year budget forecast, an update on fund balance and an update on the Grand List impact of the Board of Assessment Appeals process.

Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Budget Committee's Regular Meeting February 9, 2016.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Minutes of Consolidation Day on February 26, 2016 with the addition of the changes in the hardcopy provided on April 12th.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Minutes of Decision Day 1 on February 29, 2016 with the addition of the changes supplied on April 12th.

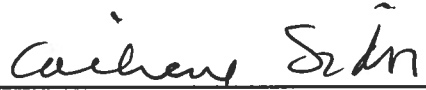
Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting on March 15, 2016.

Adjournment

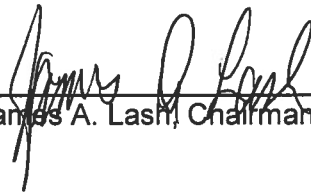
Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.

Next regular meeting will be May 10, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. in the Cone Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



James A. Lash, Chairman