Committee: Karen Fassuliotis, Chair; Elizabeth K. Krameich

Law: Vincent Marino, Town Attorney; Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney

BET: Miriam Kreuzer, Leslie Moriarty; Jeff Ramer

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM.

1. Executive Session

An executive session was not held.

2. Law Department Review

The Town Attorney presented an overview of his year-end budget projections and anticipated workload for the Law Department attorneys and staff during FY21. With the retirement of Attorney McLaughlin and legal assistant Jane Sulich, the Department is down in headcount. Town Attorney Marino indicated it is likely they will need to fill the legal assistant position as it is important to provide support staff. He is waiting before making a decision on whether he will seek to fill the attorney position.

The Committee asked Mr. Marino as to whether he has reached out to the Assessor, Lauren Elliott, and to describe how he envisions providing legal services to the Assessor for the numerous tax appeals that have been filed against the Town. Mr. Marino, in consultation with the First Selectman, will be using the law firm of Cohen and Wolf, PC as outside counsel to assist Mr. Marino in representing the Town on tax appeals. Town Attorney Marino also indicated that he has been in contact with the Assessor. They have established protocols with respect to coordinating the legal work required to respond to tax appeal matters going forward. Committee members asked that they be updated periodically as to how the arrangement is working out.

The Committee expressed thanks to Attorney Ahmad who has been invaluable to town departments, boards and commissions navigating virtual meetings, FOIA requirements and other challenges the Town government faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Krameich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted 2-0-0 to accept the Minutes of the Regular BET Law Committee Meeting held on April 8, 2020. Motion carried.
4. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted 2-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 PM. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Law Committee shall take place virtually on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen, Fassuliotis, BET Law Committee Chair