

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

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Committee

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

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Caroline Baisley, Director, Health Department; Deborah Flynn, Business Office Manager, Health Department

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chairman; John Blankley, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Nancy Weissler, Leslie Moriarty, Bill Drake

Other: Laura Erickson, Chairman, BOE; Jim Hricay, BOE Managing Director of Operations; John Hopkins, BOE Director of Food Services; Ron Matten, BOE Director of Facilities; Peter Sutton, Executive Director, Bruce Museum; Suzanne Leon, Director of Development, Bruce Museum; Laurence Simon, Chairman, Nathaniel Witherell Board

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 P.M.

Mr. Lash welcomed attendees.

**Request for Budget Adjustments**

<u>HD-5</u>	<u>Health – Grant Fund</u>	<u>Approval to Use</u>
\$5,500	F40339 51300 & 57050	Temporary Salaries & Social Security

Ms. Kiernan asked Ms. Baisley to clarify whether the Grant funds were for planning or supervision to which Ms. Baisley responded that the Grant would cover the cost of various activities including the planning, certification, training and coordination of participation in TOG's Emergency Medical Reserve Corps, which was the largest in the State. Mr. Ramer asked whether the salary was covered by two grants and what would happen if the grant funding was lost. Ms. Baisley replied that the Town would have no further obligation.

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>SE-8</u>	<u>First Selectman</u>	<u>Approval to Use</u>
\$750,000	F801 57210	DECD Grant – Bruce Museum

Mr. Sutton described the proposed Grant, to be used to renovate the Bruce Museum's science gallery. The Grant, will be received by the Town, as the Town owns the land and building. The project is estimated to cost \$810,000. Mr. Ramer queried the open ended negative pledge, required by the CT DECD. Ms. Tarkington further questioned the explanation, as well as the use restriction, the State's conveyance enforcement covenants, the Town's reporting

requirements, and any potential financial burden placed on the Town by the environmental investigation requirements. Ms. Tarkington noted the extensive requirements on the Town for a \$750,000 Grant for a property the Assessor values at \$16.2 million. Ms. Kiernan asked whether there would be any increase in operation costs after the renovation, and Mr. Sutton replied that there would be no increase. Ms. Kiernan asked who would pay for any cost over-run from the renovation, and Mr. Sutton replied that the Bruce would pay for such costs.

No Vote was taken. Decision deferred for review of the documents by the BET Law Committee.

<u>ED-9</u>	<u>BOE School Lunch Fund</u>	<u>Additional Appropriation</u>
\$120,000	\$670 53400	Food Supplies

Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Hricay described how increased expenses for quality food that met USDA recommendations, plus a reduced Federal grant, and increased cost of partnering with Garden Catering necessitated the application for additional funds. This additional loss had not been forecasted during the FY 2016-2017 Budget meetings. Ms. Kiernan asked what adjustments would be made to offset the costs, and Mr. Hopkins responded that higher sales prices were being considered but would not be implemented during the last 6 weeks of this school year. He added that originally, he had forecast food sales that would reduce the deficit by \$62,000. After Ms. Tarkington suggested that the special project team be reinstated, Ms. Erickson commented that a Committee would be convened to analyze what constructive steps could be taken. Mr. Mynarski reminded the Committee that the Lunch Fund deficit was scheduled to be amortized over a three year period and that this additional appropriation and the inability to pay down the \$62,000 toward the deficit would worsen the program's financial position in FY17 Budget planning

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-10</u>	<u>BOE</u>	<u>Approval to Use</u>
\$177,206	Z680 59080	New Scoreboard & Installation Design

The Application for a new scoreboard for Cardinal Stadium was withdrawn.

<u>ED-11</u>	<u>BOE</u>	<u>Release of Conditions</u>
\$850,000	Z680 59560	Cardinal Stadium Turf Replacement

BOE representatives explained that representatives of the BOE, the Board of Health and the Department of Parks and Recreation had convened a Turf Committee, which reviewed the bids for the turf replacement and made a decision, as documented by the BOE memorandum in the meeting packet. Mr. Matten showed the Committee samples of three turf materials that had been considered and explained the characteristics and costs of each. He cited the GreenPlay material's environmental quality which eliminated dust, drainage characteristics, consistency throughout the field, and its ability to be refilled as reasons for the selection. Mr. Ramer reiterated the BET release conditions specified that the BET needed to receive the BOE, Board of Health and Department of Parks & Recreation approval to accept the Application for Release of Conditions. Ms. Kiernan interpreted the condition as allowing authorized agents of these boards and departments to act on their behalf. Ms. Tarkington asked if the logistics and timing

of the turf replacement activity had been reviewed with DPW and AECOM. Mr. Matten responded that he would follow-up more formally with the Departments for their approval to meet BET conditions.

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>NW-4</u>	<u>Nathaniel Witherell</u>	<u>Release of Conditions</u>
\$1,200,000	H999 57128	Fringe Benefits

Mr. Simon requested that the Budget Committee add an item to its Agenda.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve taking up the item as NW-4.

Mr. Simon explained that in May 2015, the BET had conditioned a quarterly review of releasing Nathaniel Witherell's Fringe Benefits. Ms. Kiernan requested an update on TNW's financial performance, to which Mr. Simon responded that the deficit was reduced slightly by revenue from the high occupancy. Mr. Simon and Mr. Geiger agreed to provide additional information in the usual budget format for the full BET meeting.

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

<u>ED-12</u>	<u>BOE School Lunch Fund</u>	<u>Release of Conditions</u>
\$664,770	S670 51300	Temporary Salaries

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

### Old Business

- **Discussion of 2016-2017 Budget** – Mr. Lash asked the Committee members for their comments and recommendations to bring to the BET at its May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee reviewed the items reduced by the RTM totaling \$3,240,000 and discussed how to handle the operating savings balance of \$609,632 after the restoration of the cuts to BOE and Nathaniel Witherell's budgets. Mr. Geiger was asked what the corresponding impact was on the Mill Rate, to which he replied the change in the Mill Rate would be 2.81% rather than 2.99%. Mr. Mynarski was asked for his recommendation on whether to apply the savings to the Operating Budget and reduce the Mill Rate, he commented that his preference would be to set the Mill Rate to the Budget approved by the RTM. The discussion continued with various members offering possible ways to accommodate the RTM changes, but Mr. Mason suggested taking no action until Town departments returned unspent project money at fiscal year-end. He also suggested that further discussion would be taking place during the development of the coming year's Budget Guidelines before August.

Mr. Lash thanked Committee members for their comments, which he would present to the BET.

**New Business**

None

**Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

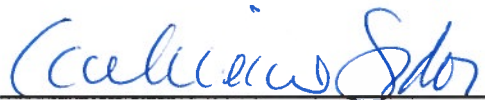
Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Budget Committee's Regular Meeting April 12, 2016.

**Adjournment**

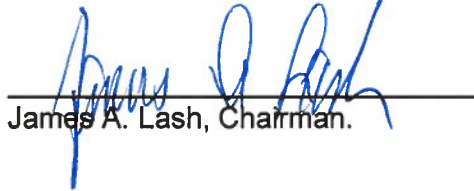
Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.

Next regular meeting will be June 6, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



James A. Lash, Chairman.