TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES – Cone Room

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Committee Present: Marc V. Johnson, Chairman; Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Caroline Baisley, Director, Health Department; Mark Kordick, Captain, Detective Division, Police Department; Amy Seibert, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works; Joseph Roberto, Highway Superintendent; Linda White, Ass’t Director Perrot Library; Gene McLaughlin, Town of Greenwich Legal Department; Peter Sicienski, Chief Fire Department; Robert Kick, Ass’t Fire Chief; Allen Brown, Executive Director, Nathaniel Witherell; Chris Alexander, Finance Director, Nathaniel Witherell; Jack Hornak, Nathaniel Witherell, Director of Facility Operations

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chairman; William Drake, William Finger, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Arthur Norton, Mary Lee Kiernan, Nancy Weissler

Other: Debbie Applebaum, BOE Member; David Ormsby, Chair, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell; Sandy Kornberg, President, Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M.

Mr. Johnson welcomed attendees and the television audience and thanked them for adjusting their schedules to be present at an earlier time.

Executive Session to discuss an additional appropriation to a legal settlement entered at 4:06 P.M.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4-0 to enter into Executive Session.

Executive Session ended at 4:14 P.M.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to exit Executive Session.

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<td>$250,000</td>
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Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve a settlement of $50,000 and forward it to the Board of Estimate & Taxation for consideration.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes May 14, 2015 – Approved 1
$250,000  A501 57210  STEAP Grant for Neighbor to Neighbor

Item withdrawn.

$500   F4038 52240  Telephone for Patient Monitoring

Ms. Baisley requested the use the Office of Public Preparedness state grant for the purchase of a cellphone and pre-paid communication minutes to actively monitor patients who had returned from West Africa during the required 21-day period. Indicating that her department had no TOG cellphones, the purchase would enable a member of the Health department to have 24/7 contact with patients who might require intervention.

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 & Taxation as a Routine Application.

$53,508  F213 53520  Radios

Captain Kordick requested that the Police Department be allowed to accept FEMA Port Security Grant funds to purchase 21 AIS transponders for Greenwich vessels that secure the greater Bridgeport Port Area. The 25% match required by the grant would be satisfied by in-kind services of maintenance labor costs.

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 & Taxation as a Routine Application.

$11,901   F213 53550  Supplies

Captain Kordick requested that the Police Department be allowed to accept a “Justice Assistance Grant 2015 Violent Crime Prevention” grant to purchase a portable Fingerprint Scan system to supplemente ink fingerprinting equipment which was not transportable to community-wide events and on-scene fingerprinting submission.

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 & Taxation as a Routine Application.

$20,000  A710 54020  Snow and Ice

Ms. White requested a transfer of $20,000 within the same major object codes to cover $30,000 worth of extra costs associated with snow and ice removal. The current budget had a surplus of $10,000 to make up the difference.

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

PW-3  Public Works  Additional Appropriation
$670,586  A312 52240  Snow & Ice Removal Expense

Ms. Siebert and Mr. Roberto requested the additional appropriation to cover the extra costs of snow removal and ice control for FY15. These expenses are normally based on an average snowfall of 30" per year. The current years exceeded 69". $615,586 of the $670,586 requested would come from the General Fund. The remainder would be sourced from surplus in the parking Fund. Mr. Johnson asked if reimbursement could be expected from the state for snow/ice removal at Greenwich railroad stations. Mr. Ramer asked if the Parking Department would be transferring funds to cover some of the expenses. In response to Mr. Goldrick’s question about why DPW was not increasing its annual budget request rather than coming for end-of-season appropriations, Ms. Seibert replied that cost of overtime, weekend or night removal were difficult to predict so post-season appropriations were necessary.

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 & Taxation as a Non-Routine Application.

NW-3  Nathaniel Witherell  Transfer
$88,432  F4038 52240  Maintenance

Mr. Hornak requested that funds be transferred from electrical maintenance to pay for remediation of oil seepage from an underground fuel tank. Mr. Mason and members of the Committee pointed out that TOG’s Charter specified the steps to be followed for an Emergency Transfer for emergency repairs including notifying TOG’s Town Administrator, the Finance Department and the Purchasing Department. Mr. Ramer asked if the remediation was according to procedures required for lawful abandonment. Mr. Hornak assured the Committee that he had written confirmation from the environmental firm that remediation was done in accordance with DEEP and EPA regulations. Mr. Ormsby advised the Committee that Ray Augustine would be hired for a short consulting assignment to support the new Finance Director’s orientation and acquaintance with TOG requirements. He assured the Committee that no new dollars would be needed for the consulting assignment. Mr. Alexander assured the Committee that he would make it a priority to acquaint himself with the mechanics of TOG’s processes and would align Nathaniel Witherell’s procedures with TOG protocols.

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 & Taxation as a Non-Routine Application.

FD-2  Fire  Transfer
$100,000  A201 52210  Water Rate Increase

Ass’t Chief Kick requested to transfer savings in OT costs due to the new training facility to cover expenses in the increased cost of water. He also mentioned that the extension of water lines and increase in pipe diameter was causing increased water usage.
Board of Estimate & Taxation as a Routine Application.

FD-3 Fire Approval to Accept
$7,098 A204 5310 Teaching Supplies

Ass’t Chief Kick requested permission accept a grant for educational materials distributed to Greenwich students during Fire Prevention week.

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 & Taxation as a Routine Application.

FD-4 Fire Release of Condition
$457,080 A205 51100 Overtime – MOU

Ass’t Chief Kick requested the release of quarterly OT funds based on the status of better cooperation and coordination between career and volunteer firefighters. A spreadsheet had been prepared to express what had been accomplished. A Memorandum of Understanding has generally been accepted by all parties but questions have arisen concerning volunteer entity designations. TOG Legal Department is working on a response. Mr. Johnson suggested that the agreement could be worded such that the volunteer entity designation would pertain only to this MOU and not any other TOG document or agreement.

Mr. Ramer suggested that he was disappointed that fuller participation in joint training was not happening, and he was not yet satisfied that the level of mentoring was being undertaken to encourage the regard and respect for each other that originally motivated the Release Conditions. Mr. Kornberg respectfully disagreed and indicated there had been improved cooperation in the field and in training sessions.

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 & Taxation as a Non-Routine Application.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Approval of BET Budget Committee Minutes April 14, 2015

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Regular BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2015.

Adjournment
Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn at 5:56 P.M.

Next meeting will be June 9, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. in the Cone Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

Marc V. Johnson, Chairman