



**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

**Committee**

**Present:** Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Nisha Arora, Laura Erickson, Leslie Moriarty

**Staff:** Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Lori Contadino, Director, Municipal Agent for the Elderly, Commission on Aging; Laurette Helmrich, Administrator, Senior Center; Valerie Maze Keeney, Assistant Town Attorney; James Heavey, Chief of Police; Robert Berry, Deputy Chief of Police; Thomas Miserendino, Director of Finance, Greenwich Emergency Medical Service, Inc. (GEMS); Tracy Schietinger, Executive Director, GEMS; Luigi Romano, Project Manager, Building Construction and Maintenance, Department of Public Works; Michael Miller, President, Board of Directors, Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG); Bernard Armstrong, Chairman, Greenwich Harbor Commission

**Board:** Dan Ozizmir, Chairman, Karen Fassuliotis, Miriam Kreuzer, Jeff Ramer

**Other:** Don Conway, GCTV.

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discussion of Legal Strategy for pending litigation for the following matters:

- Dawn Jackson v. Town of Greenwich

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to enter Executive Session at 1:01 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

**Executive Session Closed**

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to close the Executive Session at 1:17 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

**2. Request for Budget Adjustments**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<b>SE-10</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>Settlement</b>
	<b>P935 57350</b>		<b>Jackson v. TOG</b>

Assistant Town Attorney Valerie Maze Keeney presented this item in Executive Session to the Budget Committee and other attending BET members.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted to settle the legal case of Dawn Jackson v. TOG for \$45,000. The Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

<b>CA-1</b>	<b>Commission on Aging</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>Transfer</b>
	<b>A196 53400</b>		<b>Lunch Program</b>

Ms. Helmrich informed the Committee that the Morrison food services contract expired in January 2021 and will be rebid shortly. Due to the pandemic, the Commission on Aging switched the food services program over to local restaurants in the Greenwich Avenue area and called the program the “Taste of the Town”. They charge eligible seniors \$5 dollars for food and the Commission on Aging subsidized the program costs of about \$18 per meal. During the fiscal year, the program absorbed cost overruns in the food services account and as result requested a transfer of monies from the transportation account which has a large surplus.

Ms. Contadino shared that Senior Center policy had lowered the age for eligibility from 62 to 55 years old, and the new food program added a second day of luncheons to each week. Ms. Contadino told the Committee that they expect the new Café to be finished and operating by February of 2022.

Ms. Erickson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to approve the transfer of \$40,000 for the Commission on Aging Lunch Program from the Transportation Account to the Food Account. The vote was 4-0-0 to approve with a recommendation to make the item routine. Motion carried.

<b>GM-2</b>	<b>GEMS</b>	<b>\$2,391,152</b>	<b>Release of Conditions</b>
	<b>A440 57225</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Installment for FY 22/23</b>

Ms. Scheitinger and Mr. Miserendino provided an overview of GEMS financial position at the close of its fiscal year, April 30, 2022. Ms. Scheitinger provided an update on operations and Mr. Miserendino provided an update on finances.

Ms. Scheitinger responded to a question of recruitment by stating that GEMS is still experiencing difficulties in recruiting personnel for GEMS operations.

Mr. Romano, Public Works Supervisor and Project Manager for the GEMS Station #4 capital project gave an update on this project. He said they broke ground on November 29, 2021, the project is approximately 40% complete and under budget and they expect to be finished by October 2022.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Budget Committee recommends to the full BET that it accepts the semiannual report from GEMS respecting its operations, personnel, and finances, including a semiannual report on construction progress at GEMS Station #4, 1237 King Street and acknowledges the release of the first half funding of \$2,391,152. The Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the item as routine. Motion carried.

<b>HC-1</b>	<b>Harbor Commission</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>Continue-in-Force</b>
	<b>B834 59710 20199</b>		<b>Greenwich Harbor Dredging</b>

This item was presented by Mr. Bernard Armstrong, Chairman of the Greenwich Harbor Commission. The request was to carry over funds for a dredging project in the vicinity of Grass Island.

The Chair had a series of questions for Mr. Armstrong regarding funding reimbursement amounts from the federal government. She asked Mr. Armstrong to contact Parks and Recreation Superintendent Joseph Siciliano, in which Department the Project is booked, to coordinate their efforts in providing the BET more information on this dredging project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to continue -in-force \$2,000,000 for the Greenwich Harbor Dredging Project, the Committee voted 3-0-1 (Tarkington abstained) to approve and recommend the item non-routine. Motion carried.

<b>PD-2</b>	<b>Police Department</b>	<b>\$19,050</b>	<b>Approval to Use</b>
	<b>F213 21322</b>		<b>State JAG Grant</b>

Deputy Chief Robert Berry appeared and requested permission to accept a State Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) from the Office of Policy and Management in the amount of \$19,050. These monies are to be used to procure license plate readers (LPR) and the software needed to operate them. The application of LPR technology allows Greenwich Police to be more effective and efficient in identifying numerous criminal activities currently operating in our Central Business District.

The timelier identification and locating of the suspects will reduce overtime expenses, assist in making arrests at the time of the offense, and help in successfully concluding investigation more quickly.

In response to a question, D.C. Berry stated these were fixed cameras stationed at high-risk areas around town.

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to accept and appropriate \$19,050 for the Police Department for the State JAG Grant, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve and recommend the item routine. Motion carried

<b>TA-4</b>	<b>TAG</b>	<b>\$154,000</b>	<b>Release of Conditions</b>
	<b>A440 57221</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Installment for FY 22/23</b>

Mr. Miller provided the Committee with a detailed review of TAG operations and finances through May 2022.

In response to a question from Ms. Erickson, Mr. Miller said that TAG was currently involved in the bidding process to provide services under a regional services contract that will commence July 1, 2022. He expects that they may win the rights to five (5) runs, meaning that the total services provided will probably be shared by multiple organizations.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to accept the semi-annual report of the TAG regarding operations, personnel and finances, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the release of contributions of \$154,000 to the full BET as a routine application. Motion carried

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger presented this item and the highlights of his report are as follows:

- Conveyance taxes are still trending well above budget
- Interest rates continue to rise
- Property taxes are higher due to budget increases
- Building permits are approximately \$1.4 million over budget
- Expenses are trending well, and the Town should return \$8 to \$10 million
- The RTM approved the ESSER funding for the Greenwich Public Schools and Finance will set up budget accounts in the Educational Grant Fund by week's end

- **HR Request for TOO or Budget Adjustment Form**

Ms. Kreuzer presented this item, which was a template she developed with assistance from others that shows all of the potential employee benefit costs to hire a new employee or convert a part-time employee to full-time. Committee members commended her efforts.

- **Budget Resolutions – Reports**

Ms. Tarkington stated that it was reported to her, by Ms. Fassuliotis, that there are a number of budget resolution requirements that call for annual reporting from various town departments that need to be met. She said that Mr. Gieger has notified five (5) Departments and will send the required annual reports to BET members when received.

- **Budget Guidelines – FY 23**

Ms. Tarkington said that they are looking forward to starting another year of budget guidelines and for this year there will be a look back on the prior year to develop a form of “lessons learned” with a goal to improve upon the budgetary process.

## **Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Budget Committee Meeting of May 10, 2022, the BET Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the BET Budget Committee Budget Hearings Day 2 Meeting of February 3, 2022, the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to approve the Minutes of the BET Budget Committee Budget Hearings Day 1 Meeting of February 1, 2022, the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion Carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary



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Leslie L. Tarkington, Budget Cmte Chair

The next Regular Meeting of the BET Budget Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.in the Town Hall Meeting Room.