TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Monday, July 9, 2018
(Meeting adjourned and reconvened on Thursday July 12, 2018)
Law Department Conference Room

Committee: Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Chair; Karen Fassuliotis, Recording Secretary
Law: John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Fernando F. de Arango, Assistant Town Attorney
BET: Leslie Tarkington
Others: Fred DeCaro III, Republican Registrar of Voters; Michael Aurelia, Democratic Registrar of Voters; Joseph Huley, 2018 Candidate for Democratic Registrar of Voters; Mary Hegarty, 2018 Candidate for Democratic Registrar of Voters

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

1. Discussion in Executive Session of Pending Cases in Litigation

The Committee voted 2-0 to go into Executive Session at 4:32 PM to discuss pending cases in litigation. After some discussion the Committee voted 2-0 to come out of Executive Session at 4:55 P.M.

On motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted 2-0 to approve the release of the $1 million self-insured retention (SIR) amount in the Collins case. Motion carried.

2. Request by the Registrar of Voters to Review the Stipend Resolution Approved by the BET in May 2018

The Committee agreed to move the discussion of the Registrar of Voters request to review the stipend resolution approved by the BET in May 2018 that becomes effective as of January 2019 as the next agenda item to be considered in order to accommodate the Registrar of Voters who were both present at the meeting.

Mr. DeCaro explained that both Registrars were under an existing Resolution for the payment of a stipend to both Registrars for primaries. He further explained that there are three types of primaries that may occur – primaries for candidates for Federal/State office; primaries for candidates for Municipal election; and primaries for Town Committees. The difference between the three primaries amounts to the volume of participating voters, which may result in more or less time from each Registrar. The time involved for setting up each primary election, however, including but not limited to hiring personnel, testing machinery, preparing ballots, tallying votes, is essentially the same for each type of election.
The Registrars are currently earning a stipend pursuant to a 2014 Resolution passed by the BET (that became effective in 2015). This Resolution allows both Registrars to receive a $1500 stipend for any primary whether or not their political party is participating in the primary. Mr. DeCaro noted that from 2015 through 2018 there were three primaries: a Presidential Primary in 2016; a BET Republican Primary in 2017; and a Republican Town Committee Primary in 2018. Mr. Aurelia added that without the help of the other registrar, a registrar would find it very difficult to run a primary. Teamwork within the Registrar of Voters Office is critical to running a primary. In fact, the Office is organized so that the work is spread among all members of the team regardless of party.

Mr. DeCaro stated that the Resolution passed by the BET in May of 2018 was changed from the 2014 Resolution in that it states that for primaries involving only one party, only the Registrar for that party would earn the stipend. As noted above, this is not how it is currently done – both Registrars earn a stipend. Both Registrars stated that their office is an apolitical, bipartisan office and strongly believe that even with a one-party primary there is a need to give voters confidence that it is being done fairly.

Mr. DeCaro and Mr. Aurelia also stated that there needs to be a procedure in place within the Finance Department so that the Registrars can submit their requests for stipends and be paid in a timely manner. As of this meeting, the Registrars were still awaiting payment for the March Town Committee primary. They noted that there will be a primary in August 2018 and the Registrars would like the payment of the stipends to be made in a timely manner.

The Committee tabled further discussion on the primary stipend.

On motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting until Thursday, July 12, 2018, at 3:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Karen Fassuliotis, Recording Secretary

Elizabeth K. Krumeich, BET Law Committee Chair