

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Meeting Room
Tuesday July 12, 2011

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: Nancy Barton, Randall Huffman, Art Norton, Joe Pellegrino, Jeffrey Ramer

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; David Ridberg, Chief of Police; Mark Kordick, Captain, Professional Standards Division; John Brown, Lieutenant, Operations Division, Police Department; Samuel Deibler, Director; Laurette Helmrich, Senior Center Administrator, Commission on Aging; Amy Siebert, Commissioner; Alan Monelli, Superintendent, Building Construction and Maintenance, Public Works Department; Peter Siecienski, Chief; Robert Kick, Assistant Chief; Brian Kelly, Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Coordinator, Fire Department;

Other: Stanley Thal, Sound Beach Volunteer Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

Fiscal Year 2010-2011

CA-1 Commission on Aging – Transfer \$10,000

Transfer:

\$ 10,000	to	A196-53350	Household
\$ 10,000	from	A196-51010	Regular Salaries

Mr. Deibler stated that this request is for household supplies related to the changeover to porcelain dinnerware from plastic disposables, including an upgrade in the sanitation equipment, and replacement of the furniture in the lounge at the Senior Center. Mr. Gieger explained that this is a combination of two transfers originally requested separately. A discussion followed regarding encumbrances and the FY 2011 closeout.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

FI-1 Finance Department – Transfer \$1,550,000

Transfer:
 \$1,478,000 to A902-57300 Workers Compensation
 \$ 72,000 to A902-57330 Unemployment
 \$1,550,000 from A901-57100 Healthcare

Mr. Mynarski stated that Workers Compensation is a self-insured account and catastrophic events can drive an overage, and included a report showing eight surgery claims showing a net cost of over \$100,000 each in FY 2011. Mr. Mynarski explained that this request is to fund the Workers Compensation Account by using a surplus from the Group Healthcare Account and to replenish the Unemployment Account, which hasn't been billed for May and June but will be accrued. A discussion followed regarding the types and frequency of Workers Compensation claims, and continued Workers Compensation costs for retirees and other non-employees.

Mr. Mynarski also requested that the Committee authorize the Finance Department to proceed tracking the post employment benefits for former and retired employees and charge the OPEB Fund effective July 1, 2011. This part of the discussion was deferred until September 2011.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

PD-1 Police Department – Additional Appropriation \$43,218

Additional Appropriation:
 \$ 38,718 to F2139-54050 Maintenance of Buildings & Structures
 \$ 4,500 to F2139-53070 Data/Word Processing Supplies
 \$ 43,218 from F2139-43493 911 Grants/Municipal

Captain Kordick explained that this request is to set-up an additional Emergency Operations Center in Police Headquarters. Chief Ridberg stated that this was part of the original plan for the Public Safety Complex. A discussion followed regarding locations, capabilities, accessibility, public safety dispatch and communications, costs and use of grant funding.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

PD-2 Police Department – Approval to Appropriate Grant \$600,000

Approval to Appropriate Grant:
 \$ 600,000 to F2138-59250-12199 Patrol Boat

Mr. Mason stated that the Police Department has supplied the answers to the Committee's questions regarding the request to accept a Homeland Security Grant to fund the Acquisition of a Multi Function Boat. Mr. Mason also explained that the Police Department currently has a

Marine Division of three patrol boats, which are run six months a year on a scheduled patrol basis, and the proposed new patrol boat has a much broader scope of capabilities and equipment.

Chief Ridberg gave an overview of the fleet of patrol boats and Lt. Brown gave an overview of the Marine Division's operations. Mr. Tesei stated that the Board of Selectmen unanimously supports the acquirement of the new patrol boat, and shared comments in answer to questions regarding trained staff, and the Volunteer Fire Departments' use of boats for water and dive rescue. Lt. Brown also stated that additional grant funding is available to support maintenance of the vessel.

A discussion followed regarding the level of protection provided, various capabilities, Grant conditions or obligations, firefighting capabilities and concerns, and staff training.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

PW-1 DPW – Release of Conditions \$100,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 100,000 to Z345-59830-12136 Byram Pool Study

Ms. Siebert stated that the check in the amount of \$45,000 has been received from the Parks & Recreation Foundation.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

PW-2 DPW – Release of Conditions \$150,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 150,000 to Z345-59560-12127 Town Hall Space Utilization

Ms. Siebert gave an overview of the Town Hall Maintenance Plan, stating that there is a great need to improve the Health Department's laboratory facilities. Mr. Monelli gave an overview and shared drawings of the proposed changes. A discussion followed regarding accessibility, various department location changes, space utilization, land use agencies' office locations and coordination with a Town Hall Master Plan, staff requirements, customer service challenges, usable swing space, changes made to and use of the building, and continued maintenance.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

PW-2 DPW – Release of Conditions \$175,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 175,000 to Z345-59560-11134 King Street Fire Station A&E

Mr. Monelli stated that a number of ground tests for water were performed at 1327 King Street and only one location for a septic field has been determined feasible. He also gave an overview and shared a conceptual drawing of the plan with the Committee. A discussion followed regarding accessibility, traffic flow, firehouse requirements, septic capabilities and alternatives.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Firemen Healthcare Discussion

Mr. Mason explained that there are several different programs in place for firefighter recruitment and retention, and some questions regarding these programs came up during the budget process. Mr. Mason reported that he and Mr. Finger attended a special meeting, with some of the volunteer representatives, held by Mr. Tesei and Chief Siecienski concerning the property tax and healthcare benefits. The BET had clarification from Chief Siecienski regarding the criteria, eligibility, and governance of the property tax credits program. Mr. Mason and Mr. Finger also met with Chief Siecienski and Asst. Chief Kick to discuss the healthcare benefits program. Since then, a great deal of information has been provided to the BET regarding the volunteer firefighters and the impressive amount of service that they provide to the Town. Mr. Mason also stated that the BET is looking for consistency, what the original intent of the program was, where it was, and the governance of the program.

Chief Siecienski stated that Ron Lally, of the First Selectman's Office, is working on a report regarding the volunteer firefighters' incentives and accountability for the Audit Committee, which will be presented in September. Chief Siecienski also stated that these incentives are necessary to recruitment and retention, and only twenty-four people are currently taking part in the healthcare program, so if any changes are to be made to the plan, there should be a transition period.

Mr. Tesei also shared comments regarding requirements and the value of the volunteer firefighters to the Town. Mr. Mason stated that the BET is looking for consistency, a clear criteria, and accountability in the program. A lengthy discussion followed regarding inequities and inconsistencies in the program, a transition plan, the cost of coverage, and the administration of the program. Mr. Thal also gave a brief presentation concerning the incentive program to the Committee.

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Gieger presented the Selected Revenues and Spending Rate June 2011 report to the Committee, showing total revenues exceeded budget by \$6,984,000 and spending was \$7,160,000 less than appropriated. Mr. Gieger also presented the FY 2010 - 2011 Fund Balance Sheet, showing General Fund Balance June 30, 2011, \$18,973,812, and Total Fund Balances \$25,178,476. A brief discussion followed regarding fund balance.

FY 2012-2013 First Look

The Committee reviewed the Town of Greenwich 2012-2013 Proposed Budget. A brief discussion followed regarding teachers' salaries, and the Grand List growth projections.

Mr. Mynarski requested that the Workers Compensation costs for retirees be funded through OPEB. A discussion followed regarding accountability, the types of claims, costs, and the impact on fund balance.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Greenwich Debt and Fund Balance Policy

The Committee reviewed the Debt and Fund Balance Policies, May 3, 2011, as amended by the Budget Committee. Mr. Mason stated that the purpose of the debt policy is so we can see the impact of the appropriations made as they relate to Capital, see what the ceiling is, giving us opportunity to increase tax levy, reduce or increase borrowings. Mr. Mason stated that without a consensus there will be no policy. A discussion followed regarding the definition of debt, and draft versions of the policy.

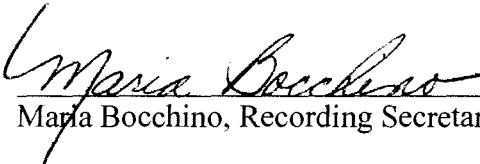
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, June 15, 2011

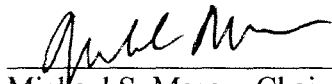
Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2011, Budget Committee Regular Meeting.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Michael S. Mason, Chairman