

**TOWN OF GREENWICH  
 BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
 TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
 Tuesday, September 12, 2023 - 1 P.M.**

Committee

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

Staff:

Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Barbara Schellenberg, Town Attorney, Joseph McHugh, Fire Chief, Charles Lubowicki, Assistant Fire Chief, Justin McCarthy, Assistant Fire Chief, Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney, Lauren Elliott, Assessor, Lori Contadino, Commission on Aging Director, Bob Barolak, Chairman, Affordable Trust Fund, Megan Damato, Risk Manager, Francis J. "Kip" Burgweger, RTM District 8 and Commission on Aging Board of Directors, Mark Zuccerella, Deputy Police Chief

Board:

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman, Karen Fassuliotis, Harry Fisher, Jeff Ramer, David Weisbrod

Other:

Don Conway, GCTV

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

**1. Executive Session**

The BET Budget Committee held an Executive Session to discuss the following legal matters:

- Kordick v. Town of Greenwich
- Tobin v. Town of Greenwich

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, to enter into Executive Session at 1:06 P.M. to discuss the above noted legal cases, the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to close the Executive Session at 2:10 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

**2. Request for Budget Adjustments (continued)**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<b>SE-1</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>	<b>\$xxxxx</b>	<b>Settlement</b>
	P935 57350		Kordick v. TOG

No vote was taken.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Arora to move the item under New Business regarding a discussion of Affordable Housing Trust Funding/American Rescue Plan up by a vote of 4-0-0. Motion carried.

- **Discussion of Affordable Housing Trust Funding/American Rescue Plan**

The discussions were led by Bob Barolak, Chairman of the Affordable Trust Fund. The point of discussion was the eligibility of the loan program to developers receiving monies from the Trust that came from the American Rescue Plan. Specifically, BET members have expressed concerns about whether loan monies returned to the Trust should be or could be clawed back by the U.S. Treasury as considered unspent proceeds funding through the American Rescue Plan program under time-restricted periods.

Mr. Barolak has and continues to assert, through his personal research, that these monies do not have to be returned to the U.S. Treasury under a loan program. As a result, it was determined that further research is needed, and the Committee formed a group consisting of Mr. Barolak, Comptroller Peter Mynarski, Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Ahmad, and BET members Karen Fassuliotis and Jeffrey Ramer to investigate the issues and report back to the BET Budget Committee at its October meeting.

<b>FD-1</b>	<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>Additional Appropriation</b>
	Z380 59120 24323		Fire Ladder Truck

Assistant Fire Chief Charles Lubowicki led the discussions regarding the request for additional monies to purchase a Fire Ladder Truck for the Fire Department. The original appropriation for \$1,700,000 has proven to be insufficient. Due to supply and demand issues with fire apparatus purchasing, timelines, and modifications for service in Greenwich, the prices of fire apparatus have significantly increased. In addition, current lead times of 34 to 36 months for production have left manufacturers to predict future pricing for steel, aluminum and other needed products such as microchips and computer parts.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate an additional amount of \$500,000 for the acquisition of a Fire Ladder Truck for the Fire Department. Motion carried as a Routine matter.

<b>PD-1</b>	<b>Police Department</b>	<b>\$ 66,000</b>	<b>Approval to Use</b>
	F219 52360		Dispatch Center Upgrades

Deputy Police Chief Mark Zuccerella presented this item to transfer 991 Grant proceeds to cover the cost of upgrading required software to run the 911 Dispatch Center. He presented invoices detailing the items needed to be purchased.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to accept and appropriate \$66,000 of 911 Grant proceeds for software upgrades in the 911Dispatch Center. Motion carried as a Routine matter.

<b>PW-1</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>Additional Appropriation</b>
	B315 59600 24317		GHS Soil Remediation

Department of Public Works Commissioner Amy Siebert presented this item which was an interim appropriation of \$2,000,000 for Greenwich High School (GHS) soil remediation. She stated that the original appropriation for fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$4,000,000. She cited that the project is calling for additional excavation of contaminated soil which comes with the need for additional areas of restoration, a water treatment system, additional fencing, traffic control, sampling and other items necessary to completing the main work of excavation, filling and restoring the site. She also spoke to rising costs of soil disposal.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate an additional \$2,000,000 for the GHS Soil Remediation Project as a Routine matter. Motion carried.

**FI-1                      Finance            \$2,000,000    Bonding Resolution for GHS Soil Remediation**

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to accept the bonding resolution prepared by Robinson and Cole to finance the \$2,000,000 interim appropriation for GHS Soil Remediation as a Routine matter. Motion carried.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

• **Discussion and Approval of the Amended Senior and Disabled Homeowners Tax Relief Credit Program**

The Commission on Aging came before the BET Budget Committee to request approval of the current existing ordinance for property tax relief for seniors and disabled homeowners. The current version would expire on June 30, 2024 if not extended by December 31, 2023. Kip Burgweger, Commission on Aging Board member, its Executive Director Lori Contadino and Assessor Lauren Elliott came before the Committee to request a five-year extension of the existing ordinance before sending it to the RTM for an October 2023 approval before the December 31, 2023 deadline.

They provided the Budget Committee with statistics showing the number of qualified applicants and the potential costs of the program. Assessor Elliott explained the new income qualifying limits.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend to the full BET to extend the five (5) year sunset clause for the amended Senior and Disable Homeowners Tax Relief Credit Program as a Routine matter. Motion carried.

• **Economic Conditions Report**

There was no Economic Conditions Report presented.

**4. Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 BET Budget Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

**5. Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

---

Leslie L. Tarkington, Budget Cmte Chair

The next Regular Meeting of the BET Budget Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 1:00 P.M.in the Town Hall Meeting Room.