



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Tuesday, September 13, 2022 – 1:00 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; Blaize Levitan, Greenwich Public Schools Chief Operations Officer; Kathleen Stowe, Greenwich Board of Education Chair; Charlie Lubowicki, Assistant Fire Chief of Administration; Ferdinand F. de Arango, Assistant Town Attorney; Barbara Schellenberg, Town Attorney; James Heavey, Greenwich Chief of Police; Dr. Toni Jones, Greenwich Public Schools Superintendent; Mary Pepe, Director Resources; Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Valerie Maze Keeney, Assistant Town Attorney; Tom Bobkowski, Director of School Safety

Board: Dan Ozizmir, Chairman; Karen Fassuliotis; Harry Fisher; Miriam Kreuzer; Jeff Ramer

Other: Don Conway, GCTV; Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Time; Julie DesChamps, Waste Free Greenwich; Janet Stone McGuigan, Select-person

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

There were two motions to amend the agenda as follows:

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to include the legal matter of CHRO, ex rel. Lynn Mason v. Town of Greenwich, CHRO No. 1720437, Allen Brown, CHRO No. 1720438 and Nathaniel Witherell, CHRO No. 1720440 in Executive Session. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to add the legal matter of CHRO, ex rel. Lynn Mason v. Town of Greenwich, CHRO No. 1720437, Allen Brown, CHRO No. 1720438 and Nathaniel Witherell, CHRO No. 1720440 to the Agenda after discussions in Executive Session. Motion carried.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION (as amended)

A discussion on legal cases and Greenwich Public Schools safety issues was held to discuss the following matters:

- Lynn Mason v. TOG, Allen Brown & Nathaniel Witherell
- USAA a/s/o Slusarz v. TOG

- USAA a/s/o Rosen v. TOG
- Schools for Safety Application

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to enter into Executive Session at 1:03 P.M. to discuss the above noted legal cases, and not including the Schools for Safety Application, the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Executive Session Closed

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty to close the Executive Session at 1:25 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>
SE-1	First Selectman (as amended)	\$(see below)	Settlement
	P935-57350		CHRO ex rel. Lynn Mason v. TOG
	P935-57350		CHRO ex rel. Lynn Mason v. Allen Brown
	P935-57350		CHRO ex rel. Lynn Mason v. Nathaniel Witherell

Assistant Town Attorney Ms. 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 above noted legal case of Lynn Mason v. TOG, Allen Brown and Nathaniel Witherell for one (1) year of insurance coverage (aka COBRA), commencing on the date of retirement (January 2023) and reimbursement of Flexible Spending Account monies of \$2,228 plus mileage reimbursement for travel to the doctor and back. The Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried

SE-2	First Selectman	\$10,427.39	Settlement
	P935-57350		USAA a/s/o Slusarz v. TOG

Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Ferdinand de Arango 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 USAA a/s/o Slusarz v. TOG for \$10,427.39. The Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried

SE-3	First Selectman	\$29,706.46	Settlement
	P935-57350		USAA a/s/o Rosen v. TOG

Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Ferdinand de Arango 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 USAA a/s/o Rosen v. TOG for \$29,706.46. The Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried

There was a motion to amend the agenda as follows:

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to accelerate TC-2 Town Clerk Approval to Use SOTS Grant. Motion carried.

TC-2	Town Clerk	\$24,596	Approval to Use
	F1502-51100,52020		SOTS Grant

Mr. Mynarski presented this item on behalf of Town Clerk Jackie Budkins who was unavailable to attend the meeting due to a conflict. The application was for the acceptance of a grant from the Secretary of the State (SOTS) for \$24,596.67. He explained that the proceeds are for Absentee Ballot support given to all Connecticut Town Clerks and is to provide resources needed to process a larger number of expected absentee ballots returned for the 2022 election.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to accept the SOTS Grant for \$24,596.67 and to appropriate for overtime associated with Absentee voting and printing expenses. Motion carried.

SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to enter into Executive Session at 1:32 P.M to discuss Schools for Safety, the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Executive Session Closed

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Arora to close the Executive Session at 2:44 P.M., the Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried

ED-1	Board of Education	\$619,800	Interim Appropriation
	S670-1780-514900		School Safety & Security Program

This item was presented by Police Chief James Heavey, Greenwich Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones and Board of Education Chair Kathleen Stowe. The Director of School Safety Tom Bobkowski was also present to answer Budget Committee questions. This application was the first of a three-part request which dealt with the hiring of fifteen (15) campus safety monitors. The monitors would be deployed at the 11 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and Windrose. It was pointed out that the Greenwich High School was adequately staffed for safety reasons and would not be needed for this program.

Ms. Erickson asked for the public record for an explanation on the status of an outstanding union issue about campus monitors replacing current existing duties being done by LIUNA workers. Ms. Stowe responded that that issue is currently being addressed with the Human Resources Director Jonathon Budd and the matter had not been resolved to date.

Ms. Arora asked why the issue of safety at Greenwich schools wasn't addressed previously. Dr. Jones responded by saying recent events prompted a closer look at school safety. Police Chief Heavey added that school safety was addressed previously at the high school, but not at some of the other schools.

Ms. Arora introduced the subject of why Arrow Security was selected, through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for school safety monitoring. Ms. Stowe responded that only two firms responded to the RFP and the choice to select Arrow Security was based on lower cost and the Greenwich Police Department's familiarity with Arrow Security.

Ms. Tarkington expressed her concern that the matter of settling the LIUNA issue of hiring outside security personnel has not been settled.

Ms. Moriarty reported that two of the RTM Committees did not support this application. She added that they probably did not have adequate information. She stated that she was also concerned that a delay would adversely affect moving forward quickly to hire an outside security firm for school monitoring. She advised or requested that the BOE Chairman and School Superintendent move forward in the continuance of this process with the BET Budget Committee’s concerns in mind.

Ms. Arora requested that the RFP and its responses for the hiring of the firms for school safety be shared for transparency reasons. Chairman Stowe repeated her previous comments stating that the Board relied on the expertise of the local Police Department and the Greenwich School Safety officer in making their decision to hire Arrow Security and their vote was 7-0-1 to hire Arrow Security. She added that this is a one-year pilot and will be looked at again at the end of the year. Ms. Arora followed up with a request to share the information contained in the RFP.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Erickson, the Committee voted 2-2-0 to approve this application (Moriarty and Erickson voting yes, Arora and Tarkington voting no). Motion failed.

Ms. Moriarty asked if the Chairman of the BET, Dan Ozizmir would be adding this item to the full BET agenda for Monday night. Mr. Ozizmir responded that he would have several conversations with several parties and make his decision then.

PD-1	Board of Education	\$411,000	Interim Appropriation
	A217-51100		School Safety & Security Program

Chief Heavey explained that the town normally has 11 patrol officers on duty during these school hour periods and that this request would be to add 3 patrol cars in the East, West and Central sectors.

Ms. Moriarty pointed out that this application and the funds would be allocated to the police budget, but the additional police would be for school purposes.

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate \$411,000 for Greenwich Police Department overtime. Motion carried.

ED-2	Board of Education	\$400,835	Interim Appropriation
	Z6001780-59560		School Safety & Security Program

This application is for security hardware and cameras. Ms. Moriarty stated that since the BET has been routinely moving capital expenses to operating accounts over recent budgets, shouldn't this be more appropriately charged to the operating accounts. Mr. Gieger offered that it would be appropriate to be put into capital accounts for now and we could review it in future budgets.

Ms. Tarkington reminded everyone that these funds would be appropriated from the Capital Non-recurring Fund.

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to appropriate \$411,000 for Security Hardware and Cameras from the Capital Non-recurring Fund. Motion carried.

CC-1	Conservation	\$5,288	Approval to Use
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Ms. Patricia Sesto presented the item to the Committee. She requested approval to use \$5,288 of grant proceeds from the Connecticut DEEP Waste Reduction Program for the reduction of waste in the community. Specifically, the program proceeds, being appropriated into the Conservation Commission will be used for the purchase of sorting stations at seven (7) district schools and a new 23-week pilot program of organics hauling at New Lebanon School. Ms. Sesto was joined by Ms. Julie DesChamps from Waste Free Greenwich in explaining how the monies would be used.

Ms. Tarkington expressed her concerns and stated that she felt the use of funds should be under the purview of the Department of Public Works and not the Conservation Commission. She explained the NIPs will now be removed from the Waste Disposal recycling dumpsters where they generated revenue for the DPW Waste Disposal budget and that environmental measures are being addressed in the Waste Disposal Division with additional Holly Hill staff monitoring the user entrance at recycling and in the Highway Department with the addition of new storm drains and filters. She asked if the proposed program especially the new organics hauling program at New Lebanon School would increase operating costs for Schools.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 2-1-1 (Tarkington voting no, Arora abstaining) to accept the proceeds of \$5,288 from the DEEP Waste Reduction Grant and appropriate the funds for waste reduction in the Greenwich Public School system. Motion carried

FD-1	Fire Department	\$53,900	Approval to Use
	F2071-59060-23402		FEMA Grant

Assistant Fire Chief Lubowicki presented this item on behalf of the Greenwich Fire Department (GFD). He reported that the GFD has been awarded a grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Firefighters Grant Program in the amount of \$53,900. Grant proceeds are \$49,000 and the Town must contribute 10% or \$4,900 from the Capital Non-recurring Fund.

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to accept the grant for \$49,000 and appropriate \$53,900, including \$4,900 from the Capital Non-recurring Fund, for Personal Protective Equipment, Washers and Dryers at the Byram and North Street Fire Stations as a routine item. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Lubowicki briefly spoke about whether to explore an update of the Town's tax abatement program for volunteer firefighters. Committee members generally expressed support to explore options to consider an update to the \$1,000 abatement established in 2000.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Nathaniel Witherell - Revenues**

Ms. Tarkington requested, and Mr. Gieger presented 12 months of Nathaniel Witherell revenues by payer class for the Committee. In addition, a chart was provided detailing Nathaniel Witherell rehabilitation stays versus long-term occupancies. The Committee requested for its October meeting Witherell average days of stay for rehabilitation residents and average days of stay for long term care residents, including comparative monthly numbers for the latest 12 month period (FY22; first 3 months of FY23).

- **Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger presented this item and highlighted the performances of conveyance taxes, building permits and interest income on his report. He stated that conveyance taxes were down from the two previous years and that there was a large sale at 777 West Putnam Avenue.

He also reported that Building Permit revenue and Interest Income are doing well.

Regarding expenses, Mr. Gieger stated it was too early to predict expenditure trends.

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

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Budget Committee Meeting of July 12, 2022 with one minor edit, the BET Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

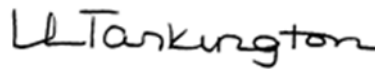
- 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 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 Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 1:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.