

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Wednesday, October 11, 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, Fred DeCaro III, Registrar of Voters, Mary Hegarty, Registrar of Voters, James Waters, Old Greenwich Building Committee Chairman, Dr. Toni Jones, Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) Superintendent, Joe Kelly, Chairman, Greenwich Board of Education, Blaize Levitan, GPS Chief Operations Officer, Dan Watson, GPS Director of Facilities, James Michel, Department of Public Works Deputy Commissioner, Laura McGeachy, Assistant Town Attorney

Board:

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

Other:

Jennie Larkin, GCTV

Ms. Tarkington called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

1. Request for Budget Adjustments

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
ED-1	Board of Education	\$42,017,000	Additional Appropriation
	B680 59560 24336		Central Middle School

Town Attorney Barbara Schellenberg informed the Committee members that since the Central Middle School (CMS) project had not received Municipal Improvement (MI) approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Budget Committee could not approve this additional appropriation request. Her statements were based on a previously issued legal opinion from Town of Greenwich Special Counsel John Wetmore. No vote was taken.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion to procedurally remove the item for consideration. There was no second to the motion.

It was noted that the CMS Building Committee is scheduled to apply for MI before the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 17, 2023 and this matter will be taken up at a later date.

FI-3 Finance Department Bonding Resolution for Central Middle School

No vote was taken on the aforementioned appropriation for the CMS project, therefore there was no vote to approve the Bonding Resolution.

PW-2	Public Works	\$338,000	Additional Appropriation
	Z315 59600 24317		Greenwich & Stamford Multi-Use Plan

ED-2	Board of Education	\$1,086,000	Release of Conditions
	B680 59560 24342		Old Greenwich School

Ms. Tarkington noted that the Old Greenwich Building Committee had received MI approvals from the Planning and zoning Commission which met one of the original conditions on the project.

Mr. Waters, Chairman of the Old Greenwich School Building Committee, told the Budget Committee that if the conditions on the \$1,086,000 were not released that the Building Committee would run out of money for architectural and engineering expenses in January 2024.

Ms. Arora made a motion to waive the original conditions on the project and to fully release the conditions on the Old Greenwich School construction project, seconded by Ms. Moriarty. The voted passed 4-0-0 as Non-Routine.

ED-3	Board of Education	\$39,796,000	Additional Appropriation
	B680 59560 24342		Old Greenwich School

Mr. James Waters presented this item. He reported to the Committee that the Old Greenwich School's Construction Manager at Risk, Downes Construction Company, estimated the cost on this project to be \$39,795,873 after the reduction of \$2.1 million of design fees. He emphasized that a second independent construction estimate was obtained and reconciled to the Downes Construction Company's estimates. These estimates are an opinion based on the assumption that construction starts in June 2024. Mr. Waters explained that estimates will be updated in December 2023 and again in the January to April 2024 time period when construction documents are completed. Upon completion of the construction documents phase, and if placed on the State's Priority List, the project would go out to bid in April 2024 with awards expected in June 2024. The renovation project could start in the summer of 2024.

There was an extended discussion about the pros and cons of delaying a vote on the interim appropriation versus the immediate vote to approve the funding.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion to approve an additional appropriation for \$39.8 million as a Non-Routine Item, seconded by Ms. Erickson. The vote was 2-2-0 (Moriarty and Erickson voted in favor, Arora and Tarkington vote nay). The motion failed.

FI-1	Finance	Bonding Resolution for Old Greenwich School
-------------	----------------	--

The vote for an additional appropriation of \$39.8 million, noted above, failed. Therefore, there was no vote to approve a bonding resolution.

2. Old Business

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

Mr. Mynarski gave the Committee an update on the status of the American Rescue Plan funding for the Affordable Trust Fund. He told the Committee that Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Ahmad and he were working with Robinson & Cole, legal attorney advisors for the town, on a series of questions posed by several BET members.

3. New Business

- **Economic Conditions Report**

Mr. Gieger presented the Economic Conditions Report noting significant revenue and expenditure variances.

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 September 12, 2023 BET Budget Committee Meeting, as amended. Motion carried.

5. Chair's Report

Ms. Tarkington gave a report on the current status of the BET Budget Guidelines, which are currently a work-in-progress.

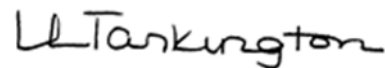
6. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Ms. Moriarty to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 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, November 14, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.