

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
NATHANIEL WITHERELL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Mazza Conference Room, Town Hall

Friday, October 21, 2016

Committee: Arthur D. Norton; Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Jill Oberlander; Nancy Weissler

Others: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; William Galvin, RTM Budget Overview Committee

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M.

1. Approval of the BET Nathaniel Witherell Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2016 meeting.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Committee voted 2 to 0 (Norton, Oberlander abstaining) to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2016 meeting with Mike Handler, City of Stamford.

2. Motion to Amend Agenda and Discussion of Meeting with Mr. Handler

Upon a motion made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to add a discussion of the meeting with Mr. Mike Handler, City of Stamford, and to change the order of the remaining Agenda items.

Ms. Weissler and Ms. Krumeich briefed the Committee. Mr. Handler was involved with the City of Stamford's decision to transfer operations of the Smith House Nursing Home to a private enterprise. He reported that Stamford was subsidizing operations by as much as \$5 Million per year, including pension and healthcare costs. Following the transfer, Stamford estimates that the City has reduced its operating expenses by \$3 Million to \$4 Million each year.

Mr. Handler explained how Stamford went about its due diligence and discussions with City Council members, family and stakeholders.

3. Discussion of Special Committee on The Nathaniel Witherell Report

The Committee discussed options for structuring its findings and report on The Nathaniel Witherell (TNW).

Mr. Norton requested including the following: the past, present and future value of TNW; explanation of the evolving trends in senior housing and healthcare; legal issues pertaining to property ownership and management options; recognition that TNW is an operating business and an optional municipal service; cost of providing care by service lines; and options and opportunities for the future.

In response to a question on timing, Mr. Norton stated that the Committee planned to complete its report before the February budget meetings.

3. Items for Future Committee Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4th at 8:30 A.M. The Committee agreed to invite Mr. David Ormsby, former TNW Board Chair, and Scott Neff to discuss the role of the Friends of TNW and possible future fundraising scenarios, including endowments and legacy donations.

4. Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 A.M.



Arthur D. Norton, Chairman



Jill Oberlander, Recording Secretary