TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Room
Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Committee:
Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon, Robert S. Stone
Ex-Officio Board Member: First Selectman Peter Tesei
Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director
Allen Corry, Director, Parking Services
Deborah Flynn, Business Office Manager, Health Dept.
John Crary, Town Administrator
John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Valerie Maze Keeney, Assistant Town Attorney
Other: Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman, Board of Education

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

PS-1 Parking Services – Additional Appropriation - $18,000

Mr. Corry explained that this request is for additional lighting in the Greenwich Plaza parking garage, in an effort to deter vandalism and theft, using funds remaining from the completed Town Hall parking garage lighting. A brief discussion followed property ownership and obligation, costs and effectiveness.

Additional Appropriation:
$ 18,000 to G219-59820-21965 Lighting Upgrade
$ 18,000 from Parking Fund Balance

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

HD-4 Health Department – Approval to Use - $73,007.78

Ms. Flynn explained that this request is for the annual Public Act/Per Capita grant from the State of Connecticut. Ms. Flynn stated that this particular grant of $1.18 per capita is based on the population of the Town and the unused funds can be retained at the end of the contract year. A brief discussion followed regarding unemployment compensation.
Approval to Use:
$51,335.00 to F403-51300 Part-time Payroll
$ 1,500.00 to F403-51490 Professional Services – NOC
$ 8,000.00 to F403-52150 Office Services
$ 1,000.00 to F403-52240 Telephone & Telegraph
$ 2,000.00 to F403-53250 Medical, Surgical, Lab Supplies
$ 2,000.00 to F403-54150 Maint Fum, Fixt, Off Equip
$ 3,247.39 to F403-54200 Maint Mach, Tools, Inst
$ 3,925.39 to F403-57050 Benefits
$73,007.78 from Per Capita Grant($1.18)

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

ED-4 Board of Education – Transfer - $500

Mr. Gieger explained that this request is to increase petty cash at the High School cafeteria, in compliance to the Town Charter requirement.

Transfer:
$ 500 to S670-58500 Advan to Estab P Cash
$ 500 from S670-52950 Misc Services NOC

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

NEW BUSINESS

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Gieger and Mr. Mynarski gave an overview regarding recent and expected revenues. A discussion followed regarding revenues, expenditures, burn rate, fixed charges, the impact of the health care benefits changes during the last open enrollment period and the implications of the new BOE payroll schedule on the year to year comparison of expenditure burn rates.

Discussion of Workers’ Compensation

Mr. Mason explained that there had been a presentation, at a past meeting, regarding Workers’ Compensation. Mr. Mason stated that information regarding Workers’ Compensation will be distributed to the Committee and Board members to be reviewed and the discussion is being planned for December committee meeting.

Update of Pending Litigation

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, the committee voted unanimously to move this item to the end of the agenda.
OLD BUSINESS

Senior Tax Deferral Ordinance

Mr. Crary gave an overview of the proposed Senior Tax Deferral plan and stated that the goal was to integrate the Senior Tax Deferral with the current Senior Tax Credit program, while being fiscally conservative due to unknown participation. Mr. Crary gave an overview of the existing Senior Tax Deferral program in Westport, CT.

A discussion followed regarding interest rates, tax revenues, effects on the budget and mill rate, return timeline, monitoring of the program, eligibility, funding, qualifications, residency requirements, and the approval process.

Mr. Simon suggested changing the language in the plan document pp. 2, Section 9 by replacing all “May 15” to read “the second Monday in May”. Mr. Simon also suggested changing the language on pp. 5, Section 11, b, 3, sentence 4, to read “taxpayer” instead of “property”. Mr. Krumeich suggested adding “further”, before “tax deferral”, to the sentence. Ms. Barton stated that the Town should not go forward with the program unless it can be fully funded.

Mr. Mason stated that all suggested changes to the plan document and questions should be directed to Mr. Crary, to be presented to the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the Senior Tax Deferral Ordinance and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Special Meeting, October 8, 2009

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Finger, the committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2009, Special Budget Committee Meeting.

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, October 13, 2009

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Finger, the committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2009, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

Update of Pending Litigation
Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:40 P.M. to discuss litigation matters.

In attendance were:
Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Geiger, Budget Director
BET Members: Mason, Finger, Stone, Simon, Barton, Campbell, Kelly, Krumeich, Norton, Tarkington, and Walko

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, the committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 8:38 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Finger, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino
Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman