

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Meeting Room

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Committee:

Present: Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman; William R. Finger, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: Robert Brady, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Marc Johnson, Mary Lee Kiernan, Michael Mason, Art Norton

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Drew Marzullo

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Fred de Arango, Assistant Town Attorney; Caroline Baisley, Director; Deborah Flynn, Business Office Manager, Health Department; Joan Sullivan, Director; Eileen Ingalls, Telecommunications Coordinator, Purchasing Department; Joseph Siciliano, Director; Tom Greco, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation; James Heavey, Chief, Police Department; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department; Allen Brown, Executive Director; Ray Augustine, Director of Financial Operations, Nathaniel Witherell; Wayne Fox, Town Attorney, Fred de Arango, Town Attorney

Other: David Ormsby, Lloyd Bankson, Nathaniel Witherell Board; Andy Fox, Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:34 P.M. to discuss pending litigation matters.

In attendance were:

Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Geiger, Budget Director

BET Members: Pellegrino, Ramer, Finger, Tarkington, Mason, Brady, Goldrick, Huffman, Johnson, Kiernan, Norton

Selectmen: Tesei, Marzullo

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 6:57 P.M.

Mr. Tesei shared comments regarding the recent storm, budget preparations, guidelines, Departmental and Capital needs, level of service, operations issues and plans.

Results of Expanded Staff at Glenville Fire Station

Chief Siecienski gave an overview of the results of expanded staff at the Glenville Fire Station, highlighting response times, storm related and otherwise. Chief Siecienski also shared comments concerning the effectiveness of the 4-man teams, and the importance of the Central Fire Station.

REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

HD-6 Health – Approval to Use \$72,120.42

Approval to Use:

\$15,000.00	to	F403-51300	Part-time Payroll
\$11,000.00	to	F403-51420	Prof. Services Medical
\$5,000.00	to	F403-52010	Advertising
\$4,000.00	to	F403-52240	Telephone, Telegraph
\$10,672.92	to	F403-53010	Office Supplies
\$12,300.00	to	F403-53250	Med., Surg., Lab. Supplies
\$2,000.00	to	F403-54150	Maintenance Furn., Fixtures, Office Equip.
\$11,000.00	to	F403-54200	Maintenance Mach., Tools, Instruments
\$1,147.50	to	F403-57050	Benefits
\$72,120.42	from		Public Act Grant FY2013

Ms. Baisley gave an overview of the use of Grant funds to supplement the Health Department budget.

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

PUR-1 Purchasing – Release of Conditions \$15,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 15,000	to	General 106-925	Circuit Packs
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Ms. Sullivan gave an explanation for the request in order to replace some analog circuit packs with digital in the current telephone system.

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

PD-2 Police – Approval to Use \$56,025

Approval to Use:

\$ 55,213	to	F217-51100	Overtime Services
\$ 812	to	F217-57050	Benefits
\$ 56,025	from		Federal Highway Safety Program Grant – DUI Enforcement Program

Chief Heavey explained that this request is to accept Grant funds for the FY 2013 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program, and shared comments in appreciation for Ms. Tarkington's and Mr. Finger's visits to the EOC during the recent storm.

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

PR-2 Parks & Recreation – Additional Appropriation \$82,390

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 82,390 to Z832-59620 Maintenance of Roads & Bridges
\$ 82,390 from Capital Non-Recurring

Mr. Siciliano explained that this request is to replace walking bridges at Binney Park and gave an overview of the project. A discussion followed regarding timing issues, cost, Building Departments' requirements, and aesthetics.

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

NW-6 Nathaniel Witherell – Release of Conditions \$20,205,000

Release of Conditions:

\$20,205,000 to B450-59560-12201 NW Renew

Mr. Augustine presented the Project Renew 2013 Long Range Plan Statement of Cash Flows, 11/1/12. A lengthy discussion followed regarding economic difficulties, fringe benefits increases, census figures, costs increases and shortfall, fund balance, revenues, private funding, operating changes, staffing and labor issues, guidelines, town-wide impact, short-term and rehabilitation care, tax credits, and cost control.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Committee voted 4-0 to release the conditions on \$155,000 for the sprinkler system, while retaining the conditions on the balance of \$20,050,000 for Nathaniel Witherell Project Renew, and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

NW-7 Nathaniel Witherell – Additional Appropriation \$2,426,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$12,426,000 to B450-59560-12201 NW Renew

Mr. Fox presented a Cost Plus Summary – Comparison to Des. Dev. Estimate dtd. 10-8-10, highlighting the original project and the project as bid 11-1-12. A lengthy discussion followed regarding financing costs, contingency, environmental remediation costs, decision schedule and delays, timeline, the impact on residents, generators, the construction contract, the pavilion, demolition, long-term care facility improvements, CON construction and reimbursement requirements, scope, Capital impact, and debt limits.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request, subject to the acceptance by the Board of Estimate and Taxation of a revised strategic plan to address the increased operating shortfalls of the Long Range Plan, and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Guidelines

Mr. Ramer shared comments in opposition of the Budget Guidelines draft 11/13/12, highlighting maintenance of level and predictable services, as well as mill rates. Mr. Ramer also shared concerns regarding operations as depicted in Appendix F, salaries and related expenses, bargaining agreements, reductions in staff, programs and services. Mr. Ramer referred to "Municipal Fiscal Indicators FY 2008-2010 State of Connecticut" and commented on debt, per capita income, the tax levy, historical mill rates, surplus, excess revenues, economic conditions and recovery, the mean value of real estate, unemployment statistics, BOE issues, and an alternative Capital Plan.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Committee voted 2-2 to oppose (Pellegrino, Tarkington opposed) a Resolution to restructure the proposed FY 2013-2014 Budget Guidelines, to express instead a confirmation of our policy of level services; a policy of low and predictable taxes, mill rates increasing on the basis of 2% to 4% per year; and each Department, including the BOE, present a budget that accomplishes that, in addition they also should present three alternative Budgets, at an increase of 2.5%, 3.0%, and 3.5%, identifying the programs and services being bestowed in each; and deletion of the Capital Plan in the guidelines.

Mr. Finger shared comments in agreement with Mr. Ramer, as well as those concerning a 2% to 4% mill rate increase, opposition to hard caps and inclusion of the Capital Plan within the guidelines, BOE budget issues, level of services expectations, and three proposed budgets to understand departmental needs.

Ms. Tarkington shared comments concerning preservation of the quality of life and services relevant to usage, the economic conditions, property tax values, low mill rate increases, Capital increases, while addressing operating issues.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked the Committee members for their efforts in working together in order to address issues. Mr. Pellegrino also shared comments concerning the Guidelines draft process, the Selectmen's review of the Departments' budgets including different increase scenarios, level services, economics conditions, mill rate adjustments relative to the economic environment, creating efficiencies and the delivery of services, and the need to reduce tax burden.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Committee voted 2-2 to oppose (Ramer, Finger opposed) the FY 2013-2014 Budget Guidelines, November 13, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

Mr. Gieger gave a report of the status of current economic conditions, highlighting conveyance tax and State of CT contributions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, October 10, 2012

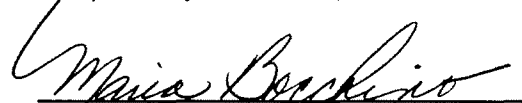
Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2012, Budget Committee Regular Meeting.

Budget Committee Guidelines Workshop Meeting, October 15, 2012

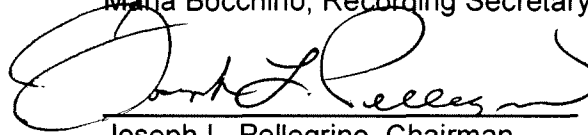
This item was postponed.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman