

TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Cone Room  
Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; William R. Finger, Laurence B. Simon,  
Robert S. Stone

Board: Art Norton, Jeffrey Ramer, Stephen Walko

Board Members

Elect: Randall Huffman; Joseph Pellegrino

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director  
John Crary, Town Administrator;

Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budgets, Board of Education

Other: Michael Bodson, Board of Education

Charlee Tufts, Executive Director; John Strong, Fiscal Officer, GEMS;  
Bill Woollacott, Vice-President, Hooker & Holcombe, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Mason offered a fond farewell to Mr. Stone.

**Requests for Budget Adjustments**

ED-5 Board of Education – Transfer - \$15,600

Mr. Calcavecchio explained that this request is for unbudgeted expenses due to GOSA arbitration and four transportation hearings and the funds will come from summer school transportation funds that we not used.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Calcavecchio, stated that state statute allows an appeal process regarding administrative transportation accommodations decisions. The Board of Education has the option to hear those appeals directly or they can appoint an impartial hearing officer.

A discussion followed regarding Board of Education hearings and professional fees. Mr. Bodson stated that occasionally a lawyer is used for expulsion hearings during the day, when Board of Education members are not available, and there is no incremental cost. Mr. Bodson indicated the reason there is no incremental cost is because the attorney is present at all expulsion hearings regardless of whether or not Board of Education members are present. Mr. Stone questioned the statement that there is no incremental cost, indicating that the attorney engaged on a retainer-basis, certainly includes the likelihood of such service in his retainer. He asked that the Board of Education members be used whenever possible instead of an attorney, thereby saving the Town money. Mr. Mason said he would follow up with Steve Anderson on behalf of Mr. Stone.

Transfer:

\$ 15,600	to	A6001772-51450	Prof. Svs. Fees
\$ 15,600	from	A6601755-52140	Transportation

The Committee voted 3-1-0 (Mr. Stone opposed) to approve the transfer under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

GM-1 GEMS – Release of Conditions - \$1,606,989

Mr. Strong gave an overview of the GEMS Six Months Financial Report. A brief discussion followed regarding restricted assets, reimbursement rates, patient receivables and collection rates.

Ms. Tufts presented the GEMS Operational Quarterly Report to the Committee. Ms. Tufts stated that fund raising has been very successful and GEMS has received a State Grant to provide a safety training program to Housing Authority residents. A discussion followed regarding the Art Barn location, planned expansion of Medic 4 to 24/7 service, nursing homes response and transport, and ambulance replacement.

\$1,606,989	to	A440-51490	Professional – NOC
\$1,606,989	from		Release of Funds

The Committee voted 4-0 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 gave an overview regarding spending rates and recent unexpected revenues. A brief discussion followed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Review Actuarial Report for OPEB

Mr. Woollacott presented the Actuarial Report for OPEB. A discussion followed regarding retirement calculations and savings, assumptions and verification, the plan outline, life and healthcare insurance changes. An updated report will be presented to the BET at the January 2010 meeting at which time the Board will vote to accept the OPEB Report.

Discussion of Workers' Compensation

Mr. Mason requested that, due to the numbers being paid out in Worker's Compensation, Mr. Mynarski give a presentation in January 2010 to answer several questions. Mr. Mason reviewed the list of questions to be answered at that time. A brief discussion followed.


**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

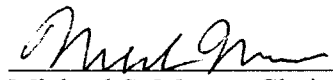
**Budget Committee Regular Meeting, November 10, 2009**

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Finger, the committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2009, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

  
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Michael S. Mason, Chairman