

**Town of Greenwich**  
**First Selectman's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects Committee**

**Tuesday, December 20, 2016**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Cone Meeting Room**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Peter J. Tesei, Katie DeLuca, Peter Mynarski, Amy Siebert, Joe Siciliano, Dr. Sal Corda, Andy Herr, Ben Branyan, Melissa Jones, Mike Mason, Jim Hricay, Leslie Moriarty, Al Monelli, Angela Gencarelli, Nancy Ramer, Jeff Ramer, Beth Krumeich, Nancy Weissler, Bill Drake, Leslie Tarkington, Barbara O'Neill, Laura Erickson, Andy Duus, Don Hamilton, Barbara Heins, Danyal Ozizmir.

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m. by First Selectman Peter J. Tesei.

**2. Overview of Meeting Schedule**

The First Selectman explained that this meeting was the first CIP committee meeting, following the public hearing that was held on December 19. He also outlined the remaining CIP meeting schedule and distributed a copy of that schedule along with a list of the voting and non-voting committee members. He also said that anyone with comments or questions regarding the CIP draft capital budget to submit them in writing.

**3. Review and discussion of evaluated capital improvement projects**

- a. Mr. Tesei read an email from Representative Town Meeting (RTM) Budget Overview Committee (BOC) member Nancy Burke who criticized the CIP process, saying taxpayers do not have a say in the process. Mr. Tesei said Ms. Burke's communication indicates a lack of respect for the system that allows for input from various layers of government and from taxpayers who also serve on the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) and the RTM. He also said that the CIP plan follows the guidance given by both of those bodies.
- b. Don Hamilton, a member of the RTM's Public Works Committee praised Mr. Tesei for involving the RTM earlier in the budget process.
- c. Andy Duus, who was substituting for Danyal Ozizmir as a non-voting CIP committee member, and is a member of the RTM's BOC, said he appreciated the early engagement of the RTM in the budget process.
- d. CIP non-voting committee member Leslie Moriarty said the overall CIP plan is critical to the community and is key to retaining residents and attracting new residents.
- e. BET Chair Mike Mason commented that the process evaluates a list of projects that are wanted versus what is needed and prioritization of those projects. He said that all

but four CIP projects funded in the last decade are complete (Board of Education headquarters, the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center and renovation of the Byram and Sound Beach fire departments).

- f. Mr. Tesei asked the committee how members wanted to apply criterion for prioritizing projects. Ms. DeLuca said she liked the process used last year. Dr. Corda asked how the process worked. Mr. Branyan then distributed the evaluation sheet and explained the process.
- g. Mr. Hamilton commented that the fire staffing study is absolutely essential and is an issue that needs to be addressed.
- h. Ms. Erickson asked whether the cyber security project would cover the Board of Education. Mr. Branyan said it does not.
- i. Ms. DeLuca said that the POCD is a cyclical project that is required by the Town Charter, and is a critical component in deciding how the Town will grow and provides a map for future CIP projects. The last POCD was begun in 2007 and completed 2009.
- j. Mr. Tesei said he discussed the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department renovation project which is said is a critical firefighting component for the Town. There is a need to be ADA compliant, Mr. Tesei added. Mr. Monelli said that the members carry Greenwich Fire Department cards and that he provides custodial cleaning services to the department.
- k. Mr. Tesei said the Binney Park pond dredging project is an issue the Town has been dealing with for several years.
- l. Ms. Siebert discussed the pavement condition index and how it is used to determine the roads that need total rebuilds. Mr. Duus asked if an increase in paving projects would mean more manpower. Ms. Siebert said it would not. She also discussed the Greenwich Avenue streetscape project which would include restoration, renovation and paving of the avenue.
- m. Regarding the Steamboat Road pier, Mr. Tesei said the Indian Harbor Yacht Club has put the Town on notice that it is a liability and he anticipates the project will generate interest and comments. He also said the Town must maintain what it has and bring it into code compliance. Mr. Siciliano explained that it was never the intent of the Town to create an around-the-clock park with lights. It is said it is a fishing pier that since 2015, one-third of it has been closed off because of safety concerns. Mr. Tesei said that it appears that the activities on the pier are not considered by some to be conducive to the activities of a private yacht club. Mr. Siciliano also said the history of the pier indicates it was a continuation of the Town's road system, dating back to the early 1900s.
- n. Regarding soil remediation, Mr. Tesei said there isn't a dollar amount, just estimates that are available, pending further direction from regulatory agencies.
- o. Concerning Digital Learning, Mr. Mason commented that initial investments in the school system are now becoming recurring expenses and that the Town must figure out whether to continue those expenditures as capital or whether they become maintenance costs.
- p. On Cardinal Stadium, Ms. Erickson said ADA compliance and sanitary conditions need to be addressed. Mr. Duus asked whether there has been discussion for naming rights for the stadium to help finance repairs. Mr. Tesei there could be exploration of naming rights for buildings and the town ferry boat.

- q. Mr. Siciliano discussed artificial turf options – whether turf should be installed at all elementary schools or Teufel field where there is more use. With the pending later school start time at Greenwich High School and because of the field lights, Teufel field also is an option for the town to use for scholastic sports once the FCIAC schedule is finalized, Mr. Siciliano said.
- r. Regarding the Grass Island marina expansion, Mr. Siciliano said the facility was built in the 1950s and there is a need for additional dock space. Ms. DeLuca said the project fits into the WB zone review.
- s. Mr. Tesei read a communication from the RTM BOC dated Nov. 29, 2016 that specifies that annual costs be lowered by \$3 million. Mr. Branyan commented that a lot of time was spent determining whether the Town is deferring too many projects in an effort to balance the needs of the Town vs. the financial model the BOC requested. Mr. Tesei said that the plan hits the target and will for subsequent years.
- t. Dr. Corda said that he is hard-pressed to offer his opinion and priorities for projects and that he will defer to department heads to do so.

#### 4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the CIP Projects Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cone Room.

## Heins, Barbara

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**From:** Nancy Burke <burkesnug@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016 8:36 AM  
**To:** Heins, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter about CIP public hearing on 12/19/16

Hi Barbara - Wish I could have attended the CIP public hearing last night and wonder if you could email me the minutes. Below is a letter I sent Peter which I hope he'll share with the CIP committee members today. The GT published it - but I don't know if anyone has paid attention. When is the next hearing?  
Thank you for forwarding your minutes. Best! Nancy Burke  
[burkesnug@aol.com](mailto:burkesnug@aol.com)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Burke <[burkesnug@aol.com](mailto:burkesnug@aol.com)>  
**Date:** December 16, 2016 at 12:13:27 PM EST  
**To:** Peter Tesei  
**Subject:** Letter about CIP public hearing on 12/19/16

Dear Peter:

To the First Selectman and CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Committee: As the process now stands, the First Selectman and Town Department heads are in control of the past, present, and future Capital Improvement Projects. Only you, not the taxpayers, have a say in the CIP even though on Monday night you are giving the public a hearing. In the future, I'd like to see some responsible RTMers given a vote on the CIP committee. This wonderful town is made up of billionaires (rapidly evacuating CT,) millionaires (also considering exiting,) some very poor, and a huge middle class. How many department heads live in Greenwich? Do you really want the middle class taxpayers to shoulder the burden of a too generous Town budget?! I believe the Town has unfinished projects totaling ca. \$160 million. The BOC would like to see no more than \$50 million per year in future projects. I'd like to see far less than this goal even though there are lots of worthwhile projects in the pipeline. Please do exercise some restraint. MERRY

CHRISTMAS!

Nancy B. Burke

RTM Member

Budget Overview Committee