

**Budget Overview Committee**  
**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Town Hall - Lower Level Lounge**

**DRAFT**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Michael Petrucelli	Chairman	District 12	
	Barbara Ruud Nucci	Vice Chairman	District 6	
	Christine Edwards	Secretary	District 8	
	Dean Goss	District 1	Absent	
	Don Conway	District 2	Absent	
	Murray Paroly	District 3		
	James Bonney	District 4	Absent	
	Fred L. Baker	District 5		
	Barbara Ruud Nucci	District 6		
	Tim Harkness	District 7		
	Christine Edwards	District 8		
	Steve Warzoha	District 9		
	Louisa Stone	District 10		
	Rosa Fini	District 11		
	Michael Petrucelli	District 12		
<b>Alternates:</b>	-- --	District 1	(Alternate)	
	Jill Oberlander	District 2	(Alternate)	
	Susan Geiss Robbins	District 3	(Alternate)	Absent
	Michael Warner	District 4	(Alternate)	Absent
	Jonathan Shankman	District 5	(Alternate)	Absent
	Bill Drake	District 6	(Alternate)	
	Michael Carter	District 7	(Alternate)	Absent
	Steve Gross	District 8	(Alternate)	
	-- --	District 9	(Alternate)	
	Bert Metter	District 10	(Alternate)	Absent
	Robert Lardon	District 10	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate)	Absent
	Emil Benevenuto	District 11	(Alternate)	Absent
	Karl Bclciw	District 12	(Alternate)	Absent
<b>Guests:</b>	Mike Mason		BET Budget Committee	
	Peter Berg	District 8	Land Use committee	

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm.

- 1. Minutes:**  
 January 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 Minutes had been emailed to members, and were also distributed at the meeting. Minutes were approved as corrected.
- 2. Special Guest: Peter Berg, Vice Chairman, Land Use Committee.**  
**Discussion of the POCD process and Report**
  - a.** Resolution by the Land Use Committee to reject the POCD  
 POCD is redone every 10 years to create a visionary plan for the Town of Greenwich. This format was followed for the previous POCD (1998?). \*The POC would identify all capital projects selected by the POCD so the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman could tie the Capital Improvement Projects and rank them. In this way, if there is no money, projects can't be

**2. Special Guest: Peter Berg, Vice Chairman, Land Use Committee.**

**Discussion of the POCD process and Report (continued)**

**a. Continued**

- Refer to other Town's POCD as example as well as previous POCDs.
- Example: Previous POCD identifies Greenwich Avenue as Business District for Greenwich Residents: now Greenwich Avenue is identified as a regional shopping center and Cos Cob is the business center for Residents. This is out of character with how our town residents identify their home town.
- Recommendation to acquire open space near water to provide water resources.
- Town may acquire conservation easement to protect land such as golf courses. Example, Milbrook used to be an 18-hole golf course, and sold off the back 9 holes for development.
- POCD should create the most bold visionary plan possible. The First Selectman should build the CIP and rank projects. If there isn't any money, can't be funded and then not ranked high on the CIP.
- Planning and Zoning has to look at its responsibilities for the vision of the POCD. View other town's POCD.

**b. Mike Mason:**

- Our revenue has fallen. Only 6 homes sold this January vs. 86 last January, so the conveyance tax almost zero. Negative fund balance has to be recouped next Budget. Savings in the budget have been destroyed by lack of revenues and fees.
- Have to get a hold on head count, look at vacation and sick pay and health care savings, while laying off personnel and not hiring for vacancies.
  - Two processes to look at: operation and economics.
  - Vehicle decisions held off (6 – 7 vehicles)
  - Capital budget: \$20.6 million
  - Parks & Recs: look to outsource positions, and look at the revenue and Expenses tied to seasonal work (lifeguards, camp counselors).
  - Police Department: remove post off the avenue.
  - Biggest savings: \$1.2 million in healthcare premiums via self insurance. Health savings account could save \$1000 per person.
  - OPEB Fund: \$1,000,000 into fund.
  - Mill rate: 3.506
  - Problem: actuarially report mid-80's put current year at \$6.8 million, Next year: \$7.1 million, next \$16 million. \$8 million for 4 – 5 year period.
  - Could pull 2 days from school year = \$1 million.
  - Salary freeze across town including Board of Education. Freeze BOE and Town salary steps. Could save \$4.4 million. 1 year freeze would save \$4.4 million.
  - Lots of morale problem in town and anger.
  - Look to encourage retirement.
  - Next year, raise the mill rate, or reductions across all salary lines. BET can recommend to pull salaries. Unions want to make concessions And save the pension plans and healthcare.

**3. Departmental Reviews:**

- a. Board of Education: Fund flow not as transparent as we'd like. issue and challenge. Look at class size.

**3. Departmental Reviews:**

**b. POLICE:**

Save: 5 people, 6 days a week 3.1 equivalents = \$328,000  
Discussion to go from 35 hours to 40 hours for week.

**c. Department of Public Works: \$125 million budget**

Steve Gross and Michael Petrucelli  
Reorganization: Put Traffic Engineering into DPW.  
Amy trying to look at shared labor between Parks and Rec and DPW.

**d. Social Services**

Discussion of department and case service versus referral.  
1% of Town budget.

- District 6 reviewing department.  
Christine said that Louisa Stone and Bert Metter reviewed for BOC. Not a Good precedent to have multiple groups doing reviews. We ran into this With the Board of Education.
- Look at costs for Homemaker service at \$80/hour vs. savings through another non-Town service provider.

**MOTION:** Proposal to bring Social Services and other Department Heads to the BOC for review

Discussion: Rosa Fini: Bob Lardon discussed sense of continuity by having the same people review Departments each year to build transparency and trust, and increase the comfort level for discussion to bring out more information.

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
	Dean Goss	District 1			Absent	
	Jill Oberlander	District 2		No		
	Murray Paroly	District 3	Yes			
	James Bonney	District 4			Absent	
	Fred L. Baker	District 5		No		
	Barbara Ruud Nucci	District 6		No		
	Tim Harkness	District 7	Yes			
	Christine Edwards	District 8		No		
	Steve Warzoha	District 9				Abstain
	Louisa Stone	District 10	Yes			
	Rosa Fini	District 11		No		
	Michael Petrucelli	District 12		No		
	<b>Results:</b>		<b>3 YES</b>	<b>6 NO</b>	<b>2 Absent</b>	<b>1 Abstain</b>

The motion fails.

**4. New Business:**

Tom Byrne wanted each Committee to review that cuts to the Board of Education by State law can only be made to the total amount, not by line item or program.  
The Board of Education decides where to make cuts.

Meeting ended at: 9:15 pm.

Sincerely,

Christine Edwards, Secretary