

TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Cone Room  
Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; Laurence B. Simon, Robert S. Stone,  
Absent: Edward T. Krumeich  
Board: Art Norton, Jim Campbell, Steve Walko, Jeff Ramer, Bill Kelly,  
Bill Finger

Ex-Officio

Board Member: First Selectman Peter Tesei

Staff:

Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller  
Denise Savageau, Director, Conservation Commission  
Al Monelli, Superintendent, Public Works Department  
Susan Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent; Richard Calcavecchio,  
Director of Budgets, Greenwich Public Schools  
Raymond Augustine, Director of Financial Operations, Nathaniel  
Witherell  
Law Department: Eugene McLaughlin and Valerie Maze Keeney

Also Present: Nancy Weissler, Chairman; Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman, Board of  
Education; Frank Mazza, Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee

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

**Requests for Budget Adjustments**

The Committee voted unanimously to take the following item out of order.

**CC-1 Conservation Commission – Approval to Use - \$5,000**

Approval to Use:

\$ 5,000	to	A172-51440	Veg. Survey IBA at GCI
\$ 5,000	from		Audubon Connecticut – IBA Grant Award

Ms. Savageau explained that she was seeking approval to accept the Grant, as well as the approval to add the Grant to their appropriations. The funds are to be used, in addition to funds appropriated, to hire a consultant to do a vegetation survey at Great Captains Island. Ms. Savageau stated that the Conservation Commission Resolution for FY10 should be amended to say that they are authorized to accept **grants and** donations.

After further clarification, Mr. Mason asked Mr. Geiger to change the request to “additional appropriation”, for the Monday meeting of the BET.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

FD-1 Fire Department – Transfer - \$188,092

Transfer:

\$ 141,352	to	A202-51100	Overtime
\$ 46,740	to	A202-51490	Professional Services
\$ 188,092	from	A202-53550	Mechanical Supplies

Mr. Mynarski explained that this is to correct an error in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

FD-2 Fire Department – Transfer - \$192,290

Transfer:

\$ 192,290	to	A202-51100	Overtime
\$ 27,365	from	A201-51010	Regular Salary
\$ 49,079	from	A202-51490	Prof and Other Svcs
\$ 20,000	from	A202-52100	Travel
\$ 15,763	from	A204-51010	Regular Salary
\$ 80,083	from	A208-51490	Prof and Other Svcs

Mr. Mynarski explained this is request for the Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Mason requested that the Fire Chief present an explanation of this item.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

NW-3 Nathaniel Witherell – Transfer - \$100,000

Transfer:

\$ 76,400	to	A450-51300	Part Time Workers
\$ 23,600	to	A450-51420	Prof Medical Dental
\$ 5,000	from	A450-52020	Printing & Binding Reports
\$ 6,000	from	A450-52050	Postage
\$ 5,000	from	A450-52090	Tuition Town Employees
\$ 64,000	from	A450-52220	Electric Service
\$ 3,000	from	A450-52230	Gas Service (not heating)
\$ 5,000	from	A450-52240	Telephone

\$ 12,000 from A450-52260 Fuel for Heating

Mr. Augustine gave an overview of the changes in operations at Nathaniel Witherell resulting in the reason for the request.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Simon, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:55 P.M. to discuss settlement of legal claims.

In attendance were:

Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Geiger, Budget Director

Peter Tesei, First Selectman

BET Members: Mason, Stone, Simon, Campbell, Finger, Kelly, Norton, Ramer, and Walko

Law Department: Eugene McLaughlin and Valerie Maze Keeney

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 7:31 P.M to discuss settlement of legal claims.

**SE-1 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$15,000**

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 15,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Thaqi vs. Town of Greenwich  
\$ 15,000 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

**SE-2 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$25,000**

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 25,000 to P935-57350 Settlement – Wilson vs. Town of Greenwich  
\$ 25,000 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

SE-3 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$55,244

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 55,244 to P935-57350 Settlement – Spezzano & Valenti vs.  
Town of Greenwich

\$ 55,244 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

SE-4 First Selectman – Additional Appropriation - \$12,500

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 12,500 to P935-57350 Settlement – Auz vs. Town of Greenwich

\$ 12,500 from Risk Fund Balance

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

ED-1 Board of Education – Release of Conditions - \$75,000

Release of Conditions:

\$ 75,000 to Z68017952-59550-25110 Hamilton Avenue School Project

Mr. Mazza presented the committee with an updated list of the proposed change orders for the project. In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Mazza stated that the project is in the final stages of inspection, although the Building Department will not sign off until everything is complete. However, they will issue a temporary CO without the steel panels being installed, as long as the building is kept water-tight.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Mazza explained the process involving the change orders. A discussion followed regarding change orders and claims.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

ED-2 Board of Education – Major Object Code Transfer - \$12,068

Transfer:

\$ 12,068 to A6001793-57350 Settlement

\$ 12,068 from A6001793-51010 Regular Salaries

The committee voted 3-0 to approve the transfer under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

PW-1 Department of Public Works –Transfer - \$17,356

Transfer:

\$17,356	to	A312-51920	Work Transfer To/From Other Dept.
\$17,356	from	A312-52920	Work Transfer To/From Other Dept.

Mr. Monelli explained this request is to pay for snow removal and clean-up from wind storms for the Fiscal Year 2008.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

PW-2 Department of Public Works –Additional Appropriation - \$200,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$ 200,000	to	Z345-59560-28023	Art Barn Restoration
\$ 200,000	from		Capital Non-Recurring

Mr. Monelli explained these funds are to pay the architect for a new set of drawings (\$26,000) and provide a 20% contingency which is necessary on a renovation project.

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a routine application.

Discussion of Current Board of Education Transfer Policy

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Simon, the committee voted 3-0 to recommend to the BET to continue in force the Board of Education Transfer Policy for one more year.

Discussion of Capital Project and Operating Budget Closeouts

Mr. Mason explained that this is a continuation of the process begun at last month's Budget Committee meeting. Mr. Mason explained that as per the resolution in the Budget, an authorization has been requested from the RTM to take all lapsed appropriations or surpluses from Capital Projects out of the General Fund and to put them into Capital Non-Recurring for future appropriations.

In response to Mr. Mason, Mr. Geiger stated that they have closed out \$2.7 million since May. The funds reverted back to Capital Non-Recurring. A discussion followed regarding the outstanding projects.

## 2010 Budget Discussion

Mr. Mason stated that the Budget Cycle for FY10 is beginning. Mr. Geiger prepared for review a comparison of the FY09 Budget with the FY10 Estimated Budget for review. Mr. Mason stated that Budget Guidelines will be discussed in September and passed by the BET in October this year.

Mr. Tesei stated that he asked Town Departments to look for ways to find savings such as to delay filling positions. Departments have also been encouraged to conserve spending in other areas and Mr. Tesei gave some examples. Mr. Tesei stated that he is looking at FY09 as a starting point for next year.

A discussion followed and Mr. Mynarski was asked to propose a calendar of monthly discussion items for the Budget Committee beginning in September 2008.

Mr. Walko announced that the Human Resources Committee will be discussing the Hay Study at their meeting on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, so please get comments in before then. Also, the Planning & Zoning presentation of the proposed BOCD at the July 21<sup>st</sup> BET meeting will not be until at least 8:30 P.M., so the Regular BET Meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. in order to avoid having a special meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee voted 3-0 to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2008, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

---

Michael S. Mason, Chairman