

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Hayton Meeting Room
Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; Edward T. Krumeich, Laurence B. Simon, Robert S. Stone

Board: Art Norton, Steve Walko, Jeff Ramer, Nancy Barton, Leslie Tarkington, Bill Finger

Ex-Officio

Board Member: First Selectman Peter Tesei

Staff: Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller
Susan Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools
Raymond Augustine, Director of Financial Operations, Nathaniel Witherell; John Crary, Town Administrator; Caroline Baisley, Director, Health Department; Princess Erfe, Administrator, Community Development

Also Present: Nancy Weissler, Chairman; Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman, Board of Education;

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

CD-1 Community Development – Approval to Use - \$969,049.45

Approval to Use:

\$ 969,049	to	Q197-57500	CDBG 2009 Budget
\$900,000 +/-	from		HUD Entitlement
\$ 38,728	from		Program Income (Repayment of Loans)
\$ 30,331	from	Q19707	Reprogrammed Funds

Ms. Erfe presented the Proposed 2009 CDBG Annual One-Year Action Plan and gave an overview of the process. After two public hearings, the First Selectman made changes to the recommendations.

After Mr. Tesei arrived, he explained his recommendations and change in allocation from what the advisory committee recommended. Mr. Tesei stated that additional information surfaced at the public hearing that specifically related to the request by the Friends of Nathaniel Witherell concerning the “Dementia Garden” project. He felt that the funds are merited, based upon the population served. Mr. Tesei explained his reasons for taking the funds from the Housing Authority. A discussion followed concerning the CDBG funds.

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

HD-1 Health Department – Approval to Use - \$62,630.00

Approval to Use:

\$52,073.60 to F4033-51010 Regular Salaries

\$ 8,956.40 to F4033-57050 Social Security

\$62,630.00 from Emergency Prep Grant

Ms. Baisley explained this request is to allocate the funds expected from the State of CT Emergency Prep Grant. She also stated that the State increased the Grant by \$1,600 today, from the original \$61,030.00. As in previous years, the BET is being asked to approve the money before the check is received. In response to Mr. Mason, Ms. Baisley clarified that the request going to the BET would be acceptance of the check and authorization to use. A discussion followed concerning Grant reductions and paying for the shortfall.

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

HD-2 Health Department – Additional Appropriation - \$5,000

The Health Department withdrew this application.

Discussion of Gift Policy

Mr. Mason stated that this assignment was given to the committee by Mr. Walko and that after some research, the opinion written by August 5, 1996; John Merbergen is still valid today. This policy will now be taken up by the Audit Committee for further review.

Discussion of Use of Consultants Policy

Mr. Mason gave a short review of the BET Use of Consultants Policy and expressed concern that this policy was not being followed. Mr. Krumeich gave a brief history of the reason for the policy, to gain more information regarding the hiring of consultants. Mr. Simon stated that, as written, the policy only addresses appropriation requests. A discussion followed regarding the policy, the use of consultants, and budgeting for the 149 line.

Capital Project Closeouts 07/08, Capital Non-Recurring(CNR) Project Balance Report

Mr. Geiger gave an overview of the Capital Non Recurring Fund balance. A discussion followed regarding the Nathaniel Witherell Sewer Grinders. The Budget Committee expects TNW to return this money to the CNR Fund

Discussion of FY 10 Budget Guidelines and Budget Calendar

Mr. Mason stated that the BET will not formally adopt guidelines until the October meeting. The budget guidelines will be discussed at the regular BET meeting on Tuesday, September 16th. Following that any BET member who has any comments, suggestions, additions, or deletions, they are to be sent to Roland Geiger, from Tuesday to Friday, September 19th. Roland will then distribute those comments to the Budget Committee, there will be a special discussion meeting, the final draft will be presented at the October 14th Budget Meeting and then sent to the BET for approval at its' October 20th meeting. Copies of the guidelines draft and proposed budget schedule were made available and distributed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

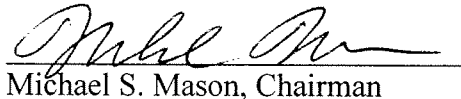
The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2008, Regular Budget Committee Meeting.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary



Michael S. Mason, Chairman