

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECISION DAY ONE FY10 BUDGET
MINUTES
Cone Room – 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, February 24, 2009**

Present:

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

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director;
John Crary, Town Administrator; Nancy Weissler, Chairwoman, Board of
Education, Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman, Board of Education, Lin
Lavery, Selectman, Genny Krob, RTM Member; Maureen Kast, Director
of Human Resources; Al Cava, Director of Labor Relations, Peter Tesei,
First Selectman, Elizabeth Linck, Fleet Director; Peter Siecienski, Fire
Chief; Wayne Fox, Town Attorney

Board: Nancy Barton, James Campbell, William Finger, Arthur Norton, Jeffrey
Ramer, Leslie Tarkington, Stephen Walko, William Kelly

Mr. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Mr. Gieger provided a number of budgetary exhibits for the BET Budget Committee for discussion purposes. Mr. Gieger detailed the budget reductions which total \$6,369,609, to date, for the Committee. In addition, Mr. Gieger presented a forecast of projected fund balances for the current and succeeding budgetary years.

Mr. Gieger distributed the fifteen-year Capital Projects financing model and gave a presentation on the contents of the document. Mr. Mynarski explained to the committee the various borrowing options. The BET Budget Committee and other BET members continued to discuss the model.

Mr. Mason continued the meeting by referring to each Capital Project listed in the budgetary request and invited comments from all in attendance.

A short discussion ensued regarding the Cos Cob Site Remediation project.

Mr. Mason noted that he would want to discuss drainage projects at the September 2009 BET Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Simon made a motion to delete \$175,000 from the King Street Fire Station request, seconded by Mr. Stone. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Simon made a motion to delete \$60,000 from the Multi Space Pay Station request, seconded by Mr. Krumeich. The reasons cited for the deletion were due to the lack of documentation for the FY09 appropriation provided by the Parking Services Director at the February 2009 BET Budget Committee meeting. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Stone made a motion to delete \$750,000 from the Eastern Civic Center Roof project, seconded by Mr. Simon. Mr. Stone requested that an updated business plan and status of funding from the public and public private partnership be provided to the BET by the Department of Public Works, the First Selectman's Office or any private partnership involved in rehabilitating the building. In addition, Mr. Stone requested that the First Selectman form a committee to monitor the project consisting of Public Works officials and the private partnership responsible for fund raising.

Mr. Krumeich concurred and offered comments in support of Mr. Stone's statements.

Mr. Ramer countered with comments suggesting that he supports a roof for the Eastern Civic Center roof project and requested further input from Alan Monelli, Superintendent for Building Construction and Maintenance.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Simon agreed with previous statements made by Mr. Stone and Mr. Krumeich and the motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Mason questioned the amount of \$200,000 for the School Architectural and Engineering for FY 10-11 Board of Education projects. Ms. Weissler assured the Committee that the amount requested was sufficient.

Mr. Simon made a motion to reduce to \$263,000 the amount requested for the Organic Turf Program with a further review after one season to evaluate the program. Mr. Krumeich seconded the motion. A discussion ensued regarding the program and Ms. Lavery offered comments about the pilot program to improve the quality of town wide playing fields. Mr. Mason requested that a January or February 2010 discussion item be placed on the BET Budget Committee agenda to revisit the program. The motion passed 4 to 0.

The Committee began to discuss the usage of Town vehicles and the justification for the request for new vehicles in the budget in light of the First Selectman's policy to reduce the number of Town vehicles being assigned to one person. The matter was deferred until Ms. Linck could appear and comment.

Mr. Mason asked Mr. Tesei his thoughts on addressing the issues surrounding the FY 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Tesei responded that he continues to work with the unions to gain concessions and continues to explore options to alleviate the concerns the FY 2009-2010 has presented.

Mr. Cava and Ms. Kast offered comments regarding the movement of employees from Preferred Provider Organizations to Health Savings Accounts for healthcare and their associated cost savings.

Mr. Cava informed the Committee that the Town has drafted an Early Retirement Incentive Program and it has been sent to the March 2009 RTM for their approval.

On a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Krumeich, the Committee went into executive session at 11:45 A.M.

Those in attendance at the executive session were BET members, Mason, Simon, Stone, Krumeich, Norton, Ramer, Campbell, Walko, Tarkington, Barton and Kelly.

In addition were Tesei, Cava, Crary, Kast, Lavery, Mynarski and Gieger.

On a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Krumeich, the Committee voted to come out of executive session at 12:27 P.M.

The BET Budget Committee recessed for lunch.

Mr. Simon made a motion to increase several capital projects, seconded by Mr. Krumeich. The projects increased were Schools, Asbestos Abatement by \$300,000, Schools, Doors and Windows account by \$250,000, Schools, Bathroom Renovations by \$450,000, Schools, Flooring, Carpeting and Tile account by \$170,000 and the Asphalt Paving account by \$500,000. The motion passed by 4 to 0.

The Committee returned to a previously deferred discussion on town vehicles. Ms. Linck answered questions about Town vehicle usage. Mr. Mason asked Ms. Linck if the Town could reduce its vehicle budgetary request for FY 2009-2010, in light of the First Selectman's initiative to curtail the usage of "take home" vehicles by Town employees. Ms. Linck stated she couldn't answer, due to a lack of sufficient information on the condition of the vehicles affected. Mr. Mason suggested that the Committee may want to place a subject to release condition on the purchase of future vehicles.

The Committee then proceeded to review each department individually with the following actions taken:

- Mr. Stone moved to delete \$7,200 from the Department #102, Ethics budget, seconded by Mr. Krumeich. The motion passed 4 to 0.
- Mr. Simon moved to delete \$113,000 from Department #134, Information Technology, account #52320 (Lightpath Renewal), seconded by Mr. Krumeich. The motion passed 4 to 0.
- Mr. Simon moved to delete \$277,597 from Department #135, Assessor, account #51490, to defer funding for the revaluation, seconded by Mr. Krumeich. The motion passed 4 to 0.
- Mr. Simon moved to 1) take one #9303 Account Clerk I off the Tax Collector's table of organization, 2) delete salaries in the amount of \$50,909 from account #51010, and to correct an error and reduce account #51300 by \$6,000, seconded by Mr. Stone. Mr. Krumeich stated he was against reducing headcount, in this case, and was against the motion to delete one account clerk, but was in favor of the motion to correct the temporary salaries account. Ms. Barton expressed her concerns about laying people off. This item was deferred pending information from the First Selectman.

- Mr. Simon made a motion to reduce in Department #140, Law Department, account #51400 by \$100,000 and account # 51300 by \$6,124, seconded by Mr. Krumeich. The motion passed 4 to 0.

At this point, the Committee had an extended conversation on the contents of the Police Department Budget. More specifically, the Committee was interested in knowing whether or not the budget submitted reflected the cost impacts of redeploying three police officer's from the Greenwich Avenue/Lewis Street location. The Committee decided to invite Chief Ridberg and his staff back to answer questions relative to the move to take police personnel off of Greenwich Avenue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Krumeich, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 3:24 P.M. to discuss a pending claim with Mr. John Wayne Fox.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 3:38 P.M.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Stone, the Board voted 4-0-0 to eliminate \$31,111 for funding the position of Emergency Grant Coordinator in the Health Department.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Krumeich, the Committee asked Mr. Gieger to create an External Entities Section of the Budget Book, to include Channel 79, GEMS, The Bruce Museum and TAG. No vote was taken but the change will be made.

Mr. Tesei recommended a \$10,000 (ten thousand dollar) reduction of the Emergency Management Director allowance for administrative help.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 4-0-0 to adjourn at 4:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman