

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECISION DAY TWO FY10 BUDGET
MINUTES
Cone Room – 9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, February 25, 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; David Ridberg, Chief of Police, Lt. Mark
Kordick, Police Department, Greg Hannigan, Director of General
Services, Maureen Kast, Director of Human Resources, Nancy Weissler,
Chairwoman, Board of Education, Alison Graham, Employee Benefits
Manager, Kathleen Murphy, Treasurer.

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

Mr. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

Approval of BET Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for:

On motions by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Stone, the following minutes were all approved by votes of 4 to 0.

- BET Budget Committee – Public Hearing 01/26/09
- BET Budget Committee – Capital Budget Review 02/11/09
- BET Budget Committee – Departmental Reviews Day One 02/12/09
- BET Budget Committee – Departmental Reviews Day Two 02/13/09
- BET Budget Committee – Consolidation Day 02/18/09

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Mr. Mason opened up the discussions with Chief Ridberg, Lt. Kordick and Greg Hannigan by stating that the BET Budget Committee was unclear about their budget submitted relative to the cost impact of removing and redeploying police officers on Greenwich Avenue, specifically located at the Lewis Street intersection.

Chief Ridberg stated that the Police Department budget submitted reflects inclusion of all of the cost savings attributable to the removal of three officers from the Lewis Street and Greenwich Avenue intersection. Lt. Kordick handed out supporting documentation and offered comments on their contents. In response to questions from Mr. Krumeich, Chief Ridberg and Lt. Kordick explained the methodology and various options available to them with the redeployment of the three officers.

Mr. Stone asked about the usage of video surveillance as a deterrent to crime in Greenwich and what comparable communities are doing. Chief Ridberg stated he is firmly in favor of the usage of video surveillance and gave a few anecdotal remarks to support his stance. Chief Ridberg, however, stated that the decision to use video surveillance is a political one and it would be up to the Police Commissioner to institute such surveillance.

Mr. Mason requested that the Police Department supply the BET with a draft copy of the proposed reorganization of the Police Department.

Mr. Mason directed all in attendance to a "Full Time Equivalent Employee Worksheet" document handed out. Mr. Mason explained in detail the contents of the worksheet and questioned Ms. Kast on a number of the categories listed.

The Committee received an oral report from Alison Graham and Roland Gieger on the healthcare budget. As a result of their input, the Committee decided to reduce the healthcare budget to \$38,350,000. This budget reflects both the current rates proposed by HealthNet and Anthem, the proposed premium equivalents prepared by Ovation Benefits for Pharmacy and Dental as well as a reduction in headcount of 70 employees receiving health care benefits. In addition, there was a discussion on the Town's effort to migrate employees to Health Savings Accounts. Those savings, however, are not reflected in this budget.

The Committee reviewed the Fixed Charges accounts and made the following changes:

- Reduce account #901-57110 (Life Insurance) by \$100,000(5% increase actual to actual)
- Reduce account #901-57085 (Short Term Disability Plan) by \$36,000
- Reduce account #901-57090 (Healthcare Administration Costs) by \$100,000
- **Increase** account #902-57330 (Unemployment Insurance) by \$100,000

Mr. Stone made a motion to increase account #901-57220 (OPEB Contribution) by \$885,000, seconded by Mr. Simon. Mr. Stone stated his reasons were to payback the General Fund the amount outstanding and expected due to the General Fund as of June 30, 2009. Otherwise, the OPEB Fund would have to liquidate assets to eliminate this liability. Mr. Simon questioned the figure provided by the Treasurer quantifying the June 30th amount due to the General Fund from the OPEB Fund. At the request of the Committee, Ms. Murphy appeared with her analysis and provided documentation that the figure was correct. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Simon made a motion seconded by Mr. Stone to recognize the implicit costs of the OPEB Fund, being paid by the General Fund. The figure was identified as \$750,000 and would be reported as OPEB contribution and reciprocating General Fund revenue with no impact on the mill rate. The motion passed 4 to 0.

The Committee proceeded to review and accept the following funds contained in the FY 2009-2010 budget submission:

- Sewer Funds – accepted.
- School Lunch Fund – accepted based on further review of the Budget Director to determine why the Contribution to other Town Funds (#57120) was reduced to the extent shown in the budget.
- Parking Fund – accepted.
- Griffith E. Harris Fund – accepted.

- OPEB Fund – accepted with a \$500,000 increase to the line item #57100 amounting to a total of \$7,725,000.

The BET Budget Committee started to discuss budget resolutions. Ms. Barton stated that Town Attorney John Wayne Fox was in Hartford and wasn't able to be present to comment on the budget resolutions. Ms. Barton stated that she would follow up on any outstanding items. Mr. Mason requested that Mr. Jim Campbell and Ms. Barton present to the full BET the budget resolutions on March 19, 2009.

Mr. Mason reminded all in attendance about the seriousness of material increases in future pensions contributions and their impact on future budgets. Mr. Mason suggested that the pension contribution issue in future years will be addressed at the March 10, 2009 BET Budget Committee meeting and incorporated into the budget message transmitted to the BET.

Mr. Simon made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating and Capital Budget, as amended, at a total of \$341,672,424. Mr. Stone seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Simon made a motion to approve all of the remaining funds for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as presented in the budget book and as amended. Mr. Stone seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 P.M.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary

Michael S. Mason, Chairman