

TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Cone Room  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Committee:

Present: Michael Mason, Chairman; Larry Simon, Robert Stone, Edward Krumeich

Board: Nancy Barton, Leslie Tarkington, Art Norton, Jeff Ramer, Bill Finger, Jim Campbell, Stephen Walko

Ex-Officio Board Member: First Selectman Peter Tesei

Staff: Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller  
Elizabeth Linck, Director, Fleet Department  
Lloyd Hubbs, Commissioner; Dave Thompson, Chief Engineer, DPW  
Joe Roberto, Superintendent, Highway  
John Crary, Town Administrator  
Aamina Ahmad, Law Department  
Ted Gwartney, Assessor

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M.

**Requests for Budget Adjustments**

FL-1 Fleet – Additional Appropriation - \$42,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$42,000	to	A380-53500	Purchase Fuel to 6/30/08
\$42,000	from	Contingency	

In response to Mr. Mason, Ms. Linck said that the contract for fuel expired December 30, 2007, in January we were on the open market until the price seemed reasonable and then decided to purchase by contract on February 1. The change is in cost, not in units.

In response to Mr. Stone, Ms. Linck said that she based her decision on input from the purchasing department and John Crary. Mr. Stone expressed the concern that expert advice was not sought. Mr. Mason was confused by the open market price being less than a contracted price. Mr. Stone said that he would like to see a process developed that would include continuing professional input concerning purchasing on the spot market or under term contracts. Mr. Simon suggested that Mr. Stone meet with purchasing before contracts expire at the end of June or find a resource that the Town can use by then.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the additional appropriation under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

FL-2 Fleet – Additional Appropriation - \$83,000

Additional Appropriation:

\$83,000	to	A380-53510	Purchase Parts to 6/30/08
\$83,000	from	Contingency	

In response to Mr. Mason, Ms. Linck explained that these parts are for in-house work. Ms. Linck also gave a short overview of how and when and outside vendor is used for repairs as opposed to in-house. In response to Mr. Simon, Ms. Linck said that she tries to keep her budget within the BET guidelines, but for the past two years has had to come back for additional appropriations and the cost of parts is increasing every year. This year 364, 000 was budgeted and she expects to spend 466,000, which is higher than the past two years. Mr. Simon stated that perhaps we need to look more carefully, when doing the budget for next year, at what we need for parts based upon the total vehicles as opposed to what is expected from the budget committee.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the additional appropriation under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

PW-4 Department of Public Works – Additional Appropriation - \$640,000

Mr. Hubbs explained that this appropriation was for bridge and drain work related to the nor'easter. Although approximately \$192,000 was received from FEMA, a lot of these were found ineligible because of the classification of the roadway. In response to Mr. Mason, Mr. Hubbs said the both the engineering and construction of this work will be contracted out.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Hubbs said that FEMA looks at each site and they determine whether the damage is disaster related or from a pre-existing problem. Then FEMA does their own evaluation of what they think the work should cost and they will give us seventy-five percent of those amounts. If it is over 50,000, you must go contract for it and only the Bailiwick Bridge fits that category.

Mr. Thompson said that most of these were scour problems. We got the Bailiwick Bridge, Bible Street Park, the Cos Cob Dam on the Pomerance property, and three small bridges. In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Thompson said that we present, than FEMA makes a decision. FEMA will not pay for damages to federally funded roads or bridges.

After Mr. Hubbs clarified the amount of reimbursement from FEMA, Mr. Simon said that the funds should be taken from Capitol non-recurring, not the Contingency fund. Mr. Walko said that the requested amount should be changed to 640,000 from 650,000, since 90,000 had already been accounted for.

Additional Appropriation:

\$640,000 to Z312-59600-28134 Nor'easter Damage Repairs  
\$640,000 from Capitol non-recurring

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the additional appropriation under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

PW-5 Department of Public Works – Additional Appropriation - \$87,000

Mr. Hubbs stated that this was to cover the cost of several minor road maintenance projects completed in August 2007. Mr. Simon said that these funds should be taken from Capitol non-recurring, not the Contingency fund, also.

Additional Appropriation:  
\$87,000 to Z312-59600-28011 Highway Maintenance  
\$87,000 from Capitol non-recurring

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the additional appropriation under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Upon a motion by Mr. Krumeich, seconded by Mr. Stone, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:05.

In attendance were:  
Peter Mynarski, Comptroller, Roland Gieger, Budget Director  
Mssrs. Mason, Krumeich, Simon, Stone, Campbell, Finger, Norton, Ramer  
Mmes: Barton and Tarkington: current BET  
Peter Tesei, First Selectman, J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 7:22.

SE-17 First Selectman – Resolution

Mr. Tesei explained that the resolution would permit the town to pursue grants to enable the town to purchase hybrid vehicles. Mr. Crary explained that vehicles are already in the budget and that this resolution would allow the town purchase hybrid vehicles and to apply for grants to cover the differential in their cost. In response to Mr. Mason, Mr. Crary said that the grant would be for 2008, and possibly right now. Mr. Tesei said that this would also be incorporated into the budget. In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Crary said that we have received one for two vehicles in October and would like to apply for two more. This resolution will also go to the RTM.

In response to Mr. Mason, Ms. Barton said that there are some language changes and Ron Lally said that the State will not accept an application without a resolution being in place. Mr. Mason suggested the updated resolution be brought to the BET at its next meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

In response to Mr. Simon, Mr. Crary said that we have already budgeted for normal gasoline vehicles in next year's budget. Mr. Tesei stated that we intend to move forward with purchasing this type vehicle. Mr. Simon stated that if the money for a hybrid vehicle is not in the budget, then receipt of the grant money is needed before purchasing. Ms. Barton said that these are reimbursement grant, so the town would have to purchase the vehicle and then apply for the grant.

In response to Mr. Stone, Mr. Crary said there is enough time to wait to purchase the vehicle. Mr. Simon suggested the revised resolution not to include reimbursement back to this account.

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

#### SE-18 First Selectman – Approval of Land Trust Ordinance

Ms. Ahmad stated that this ordinance has been approved by the Board of Selectman. This ordinance was requested by the Greenwich Land Trust to comply with Public Act 07-170.

An extensive discussion followed. In response to Ms. Barton, Ms. Ahmad said that the legislation was designed to benefit the land trust to allow them to acquire more land for open space and conservation purposes. Ms. Tarkington voiced concerns that this allows for personal property, not just raw land.

Mr. Walko suggested the document should be taken up by the full BET. There was agreement that more examples are needed. The Law Committee will review and rework.

#### SE-19 First Selectman – Approval of Settlement -

Appropriation:  
\$ to P935-57350 Settlement of Flood Claims

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the settlement of flood claims under the authority delegated to it by the BET.

#### Comptroller's Ten-Year Budgetary Forecast (2008-2018)

Mr. Mynarski gave a presentation of the ten-year budgetary forecast.

Mr. Mason stated that the operating budgets moving forward numbers are consistent. Mr. Mason commented that in the fifteen-year capitol plan there are a number of seriously large projects that are using placeholders, so as we get closer some of those numbers will have to be increased, also any current projects that go over guidelines creates an issue going forward. This is the working model that shows us where we are heading.

Ms. Tarkington suggested sharing this document with the department heads. Ms. Barton stated that we need to be careful not to discount the effects of each year's budget.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Mr. Stone, the Board voted 3-0-1 to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2008, Regular Budget Committee Meeting with Mr. Simon abstaining.

There being no further business before the committee, upon a motion by Mr. Krumeich, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

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Michael Mason, Chairman