

Greenwich RTM Transportation Committee Meeting
Town Hall, Mazza Conference Room
April 3, 2018
7:00 PM

Minutes

Eleven districts present (Distr. 3 absent)

Amy Siebert, Commissioner of Public Works, and Joseph Roberto, Superintendent of the Highway Division, both from the Department of Public Works were present to discuss the budget for the DPW transportation related items and Highway Division (312 and 318). Some of the highlights of that discussion:

Capital budget

- The brine maker that will be purchased this year will pay for itself quickly. Pre-treating roads is an effective way to keep ice and snow from bonding to the road surface. The town currently purchases brine ready-made at a cost of approximately \$9,100 per tank and the solution is generally 80-90% water. The new equipment will allow for a solution of 23% salt and a tank will be filled at a cost of approximately \$1,000. Tanks can be slid into town dump trucks.
- There was a brief discussion of the issues and concerns surrounding the Sound Beach rotary project.
- Cutbacks to the paving budget could prevent the division from maintaining its current Pavement Condition Index standard, particularly with materials costs rising, and are not recommended
- The second half of a state bond payment may not be delivered, which further pinches the paving budget.
- Many capital projects are partially funded by the state, like the Sound Beach rotary project, and while some receive funding commitments, it is difficult to say whether all will receive promised funding.
- There is no money for new sidewalks in the budget but repairs are within maintenance.

Operating budget

- This budget is straightforward with no significant changes and is within the BET guidelines.
- The rise in bank fees is because of credit card fees and includes all DPW divisions, including Building Inspection, Highway and Sewer. The DPW office now accepts credit cards.
- This winter has been challenging with 17 days of snow and 19 days of ice conditions – a total of 66 inches of snow. The budget is typically based on a 45-year historic average of 30 inches. With 265 miles of road, municipal parking lots, school properties, etc. to cover, it is often necessary to pare back on spending in the spring to avoid having to request additional funding.

- Brine that is currently in use is not believed to have come from fracking waste.
- Salt is bid out by the purchasing department annually and is currently coming from a subcontractor in New London.
- A line item for “rental fees” is generally for the use of access roads owned by private entities, Metro North, etc.
- In response to a question about custodial fees being higher than for other departments, it was explained that there are sheds needing to be stocked with their own supplies and includes everything from toilet paper, to trash can liners, degreasers, cleaning agents, etc.
- In response to a question about the “cleaning services” line item, it was explained that some items need to be sent out to be cleaned.
- Labor is one of the divisions largest expenses and they rely heavily on temporary, seasonal workers.
- Leaf collection is challenging. The town collects 30k yards annually, but carting and disposing of the leaves is charged by weight, which means that a wet Fall will be more expensive than a dry Fall.
- If we stopped collecting leaves, the town would save on hauling costs, overtime, labor, etc. Requiring residents to use biodegradable bags would be helpful in keeping leaves out of storm drains and roads, but would not necessarily make the job easier.
- The use of mulching mowers has not yet reached a point of participation that results in cost savings.
- A question was asked regarding the line item for electricity and whether that could be reduced by installing solar panels. They are added to new buildings when it is deemed to be economically beneficial.

Captain Mark Kordick of the Greenwich Police Department is currently overseeing the daily operations of Parking Services after the departure of Rita Azreluant’s departure. Although he did not prepare the budget, he presented the Parking Fund budget (219) to the committee. Some highlights:

- Largest change is in temporary salaries, due to plans to change department structure
- The town might put out a request for proposal for an external manager with better expertise in municipal parking or recruit a manager from elsewhere.
- Outsourcing specific areas of Parking Services responsibility is also under consideration.
- In addition to the recent arrest of a clerk in the department, there was an arrest under Director Alan Corey for a similar cash handling issue.
- Many recommendations from a previous audit were repeated in the recent audit. The internal auditor from the previous audit has been hired to put in place appropriate policies and procedures using the funds remaining for the director’s salary.
- For example, all electronic meters supply auditable data, although this feature was not used until recently.
- A question about the number of voided and reduced tickets was asked. Although the number seems high, it is not particularly unusual because credits are given to those who pay early, hearing officers decisions result in voids and reductions, etc.

- There was no means for determining whether meter collections were accurate in the past as the record keeping was inadequate. However, based on new numbers, it does not appear to be inconsistent.
- Parking permits have been difficult to regulate and the waiting lists remain lengthy. The town ordinance relating to permits does not define policies or rules that would encourage turnover or punish people for transferring permits privately.
- Revenue from permits is shared with DPW and for all lots owned by Metro North. Downtown Greenwich lots are owned by the town.
- The difference between the cost of plate readers being purchased by the Police Department and Parking Services is due to the police cars already being fitted with computers and peripherals to which the plate reader connects. Parking Services must retrofit vehicles at a greater expense.

<i>Delegate</i>		P	A
Dist. 1	Varga, Helma H.	X	
Dist. 2	Markowitz, Mary Ellen D.	X	
Dist. 3	Conelias, Thomas P.		X
Dist. 4	von Brachel, Lucy H.	X	
Dist. 5	D'Alton Barrett, Stephanie	X	
Dist. 6	Ducret, Carol C.	X	
Dist. 7	Cahill, Thomas	X	
Dist. 8	Bates, Jonathan H.	X	
Dist. 9	Quackenbush, Christine	X	
Dist. 10	Small, Alan A.	X	
Dist. 11	Kim Salib	X	
Dist. 12	Whyko, Donald T.		X

<i>Alternate</i>			
Dist. 1	Sanders, Elizabeth		X
Dist. 2	O'Hagan, Lorelei Brooke		X
Dist. 3	Walsh, Allison M.		X
Dist. 4	Casson-Vaz, Andrea J.		X
Dist. 5	Ozizmir, Danyal		X
Dist. 6	O'Hara, Jo Ann D.	X	
Dist. 7	Ryan, John P.		X
Dist. 8			X
Dist. 9	Eagan, Jr., Thomas A.		X
Dist. 10	Roelke, Norma S.	X	X

Attendance:

Dist. 11	Fassuliotis, Despina K.		X
Dist. 12	Leonart, Aaron J.	X	