

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

April 7 2015

Town Hall Room 206 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Mao, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All members of the Board of Finance were present. Also in attendance were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Selectman Susan Marks, Selectman Gerry Nielsen, RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye, Board of Education Chairman Betsy Hagerty-Ross, members of the Board of Education, Finance Director Kate Clarke Buch and members of the Board of Education administration. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

Special Appropriations

Demolition of Hoyt Street Property and Demolition of Edgerton Street Property

The Board discussed the requests, including the potential sources of funding. The Board also discussed the timing of approval by the RTM and how this may impact the timing of the projects.

Mr. Zagrodzky moved the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lopiano:

That the following special appropriations is recommended to the RTM for approval:

From:			To:		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
	Fund Balance	\$35,000	TBD	Hoyt St Demo	\$35,000

The motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Orr moved the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Zagrodzky:

That the following special appropriation is recommended to the RTM for approval:

From:			To:		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
	Fund Balance	\$444,000	TBD	Edgerton St Demo	\$444,000

The motion passed 7-0.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board of Education budget was discussed. Mr. Huck requested an update on the enrollment projections. Mr. Feeney, Board of Education Director of Finance, discussed the information used for the budget as well as the Milone & McBroom report.

Questions were asked about school capacity. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross stated that Milone & McBroom was looking at all BOE facilities, plus several Town buildings, including Town Hall. Mrs. Mao asked if they were also looking at 35 Leroy. Mr. Lopiano asked if the strategic plan being worked on by Milone & McBroom would be looking at how other school districts manage facility maintenance, including grounds.

Mr. Orr noted that a recent report to the BOE indicated that they were on track for a \$300,000 surplus in FY 2015 and questioned whether or not this was still the case. Mr. Feeney stated that they were, but that there were other items that could impact this, including special education costs and reimbursements.

Mr. Zagrodzky asked the BOE to discuss the Special Education budget and the estimate for the Special Education Excess Cost Reimbursement Grant. Mrs. Barber described how the budget was prepared, including the reimbursement. A 70% reimbursement rate was used as an estimate.

There was further discussion of the Early Learning Program (ELP). It is budgeted with no expansion planned. It was noted that the ELP Program had been moved into its own Responsibility Center for budgeting and accounting purposes.

This concluded the discussion of the Operating Budget.

The Board of Finance then moved onto capital budgets. As the Town requests have been discussed previously, the Board moved to the Board of Education Capital requests.

There was brief discussion of the request for a Grand Piano. It was noted that the request was for a Concert Grand Piano. The Board of Finance stated its support for budgeting for the arts.

The Board of Finance asked questions regarding the Telephone System Replacement. Mr. Feeney stated that they are replacing phones at the elementary schools and the middle school with a system that will match the one at the high school and Central Office.

Mr. Orr made a motion to put the BOE telephone replacement in the BOF Capital Contingency account. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lopiano. The motion failed 2 (Orr, Lopiano) to 5.

The discussion moved to the request for 2 Suburbans. Mr. Lynch stated that they were looking at GMC products because they had an employee that was a certified GMC

Mechanic. Dr. Pierson, Interim Superintendent, discussed why she presented the idea of purchasing vehicles and providing some transportation rather than outsourcing all of it. Mr. Feeney broke down the estimated costs.

The Board of Finance next asked to discuss the request to replace the Oval Field Turf. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross asked that this be done in Executive Session due to related pending litigation. At 8:45 pm, on a motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, the board voted 7-0 to move into Executive Session.

At 9:30, the Board resumed its public session.

Mr. Lopiano asked some questions about the proposed heating system for 35 Leroy. He asked if BOE employees would be providing the labor to install the proposed system. Mr. Lynch explained why they would not be able to do this.

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross then asked if all of the proposed capital projects were going forward with the exception of the Turf Field. Mrs. Mao said yes. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross then stated that information the BOE had received to date on their potential medical insurance costs indicated that they could reduce the BOE Operating budget by \$250,000. The Board of Finance accepted the proposed cut.

The Board then reviewed the items it was considering removing from the capital budget to propose for bonding as well as paving projects that had been proposed in prior years. They are listed below.

BONDING

from FY 16 proposed budget

POLICE BOAT	285,500
ORES REPLACE ASPHALT	25,000
RES RESURFACE PARKING LOTS	85,000
35 LEROY HYDRONIC BASEBOARD HEATING	220,000
35 LEROY REPAVE PARKING LOT CO	80,000
	<hr/>
	695,500

additional items proposed for bonding

Center St N	300,000
Leroy West Parking Lot	212,000

The Board then discussed the merits of bonding at this time.

The Board of Finance then reviewed the proposed changes in the budget. Mrs. Mao then read the budget resolution.

The foregoing budget was approved by the Board of Finance of the Town of Darien at its meeting held April 7, 2015. The following resolutions were adopted at said meeting.

A RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$ 4,271,977 is hereby made from the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Town of Darien as shown by the budget this day approved.

B RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$ 46,755,027 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Selectmen's Operating Budget.

C RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$ 90,722,526 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Education Operating Budget.

D RESOLVED, that the above appropriations, totaling \$ 137,477,553 are for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Town of Darien for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 as shown by the budget this day approved.

E RESOLVED, that a tax of 15.35 mills is hereby levied upon the last complete grand list of the Town with a total net assessment of \$ 8,356,198,215 on property as of October 1, 2014, payable in two equal semi-annual installments, the first installment to become due and payable on July 1, 2015 and the second installment to become due and payable on January 1, 2016, provided however that:

1. Any taxpayer may pay both of said installments on July 1, 2015;
2. The personal property tax on motor vehicles in said Town shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2015
3. Any property tax in any amount not in excess of one hundred (\$ 100.00) shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2015

F RESOLVED, that the Town of Darien, acting through its Board of Selectmen, and subject to the approval of said Town at the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to be held May 11, 2015, be authorized to borrow on the note or notes of the Town the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the general expenses of the Town pending the collection of either or both of said semi-annual installments of taxes on or prior to June 30, 2016.

G RESOLVED, that the following appropriations for other funds are hereby made as detailed below for the 2015-2016 fiscal year as shown by the budget this day approved.

3,648,489	Sewer Operating Fund for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Town of Darien, Sewer Commission
550,000	Sewer Assessment Fund
408,000	Sewer Capital Fund
786,668	Parking Lot Administration Fund
235,850	Parking Lot Capital Fund

Mrs. Maguire moved the resolution, seconded by Mr. Orr. The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Lopiano).

Bonding Resolutions

Refunding Resolution

Mrs. Buch explained the Refunding Resolution for \$60,000,000 (see attached). Mr. McLaughlin moved the resolution, Mr. Huck seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

The Board then discussed the bonding resolutions for Various Road Improvements and Various Capital Projects. The Board chose to consider the two resolutions together. Mr. McLaughlin moved both resolutions, with a second by Mr. Zagrodzky. The motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Lopiano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Maguire. The motion passed 7 – 0 at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lopiano
Clerk