

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE
“DRAFT”**

Minutes of a Special Meeting Held on March 18, 2013

On March 18, 2013, a meeting of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee was held in the back of the Darien Town Hall auditorium with fourteen of fifteen members present.

Present were:

Bill Ball
John Boulton
Rob Cardone
Mari Lu Cleary
Jack Davis
Werner Domittner
Terry Duffy
Kip Hall
Kirk Hoffman
Bruce Orr
James Palen
Deb Ritchie
Anita Rycenga
Marc Thorne

Absent: Reilly Tierney

Audience: RTM Moderator Mrs. Sarah Seelye, BOF Chair Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Mao, and Finance Director Mrs. Kathleen Clarke Buch.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Jack Davis who was conducting the meeting.

Mr. Davis explained that the amendment to resolution 13-4 regarding delinquent sewer service charges would be made by him from the floor during the subsequent RTM meeting. The words “to the Board of Education budget” will be stricken from the last paragraph. Ms. Rycenga asked how this kind of delinquency can be avoided in the future and Ms. Mao said the BOF will keep a close eye out and Ms. Buch said the Tax Collector will be more diligent in the future with follow up on delinquencies.

Motion was made to accept the resolution in its amended form by Mr. John Boulton and seconded by Mr. Marc Thorne. While this vote was unanimously in favor, the committee members present for the vote included 11 of 15 members:

Bill Ball, John Boulton, Rob Cardone, Mari Lu Cleary, Jack Davis, Terry Duffy, Kirk Hoffman, Bruce Orr, James Palen, Anita Rycenga, Marc Thorne.

Resolution 13-6 regarding the special revenue fund suggested by outside auditors to account for expenses related to hurricane Sandy was discussed next. While a spreadsheet outlining the various components of the anticipated outcome was requested after the F&B's last meeting held on March 11, 2013 no spreadsheet was available for review. The estimated figures reviewed did not tie out. Total storm related expenses are between \$900,000 and \$933,000, appx. \$357,000 of those may be reimbursed by insurance company and/or FEMA (net of 25% reduction/co-pay imposed by FEMA), \$140,000 has been already committed by the BOF from their contingency fund as certain repairs need to get underway immediately in order for the beaches to be ready for the summer season and appx. \$123,000 for the Junior Sailing Building is up in the air as to whether or not repairs will be executed. Ms. Buch believes much of the \$300,000 estimated to repair Weed Beach will not be recovered by insurance or FEMA. The request before the RTM is for a \$250,000 appropriation. The drivers behind the segregation of these income and expense items are two-fold. One has to do with municipal accounting and timing of same as certain items cannot be carried over from one fiscal year to another unless they are in a reserve account and the other is for a clean segregation of transactions related to the storm event. Several committee members were frustrated that the spreadsheet was not available as a tool in order for them to perform due diligence prior to reporting to the full RTM.

Motion was made to accept the resolution by Mr. Marc Thorne and seconded by Mr. Bruce Orr. Votes were as follows with 14 of the 15 members present at the time this vote was taken:

YES

Bill Ball, John Boulton, Rob Cardone, Mari Lu Cleary, Jack Davis, Werner Domittner, Kip Hall, Kirk Hoffman, Bruce Orr, James Palen, Deb Ritchie, Marc Thorne.

NO

Terry Duffy

ABSTENTION

Anita Rycenga

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Dated: March 19, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Anita M. Rycenga

Clerk

RTM Finance & Budget Committee