

## **RTM- Finance & Budget Committee Minutes for Scheduled Meeting 1/17/2012**

Quorum- 12 of 14 members present

Present: B. Orr, B. Smith, J. Palen, M. Thorne, J. Davis, T. Duffy, K. Hoffman, T. Schwarz, N. McIlree, A. Rycenga, R. Tierney, J. Sini

Absent: C. Brode, D. Ritchie

Guest: Heather Shea from Board of Education

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bruce Orr at 8:16 pm

Motion to approve the agenda was made and approved unanimously.

Motion to move RTM resolution 12-1 was made by Bruce Orr and seconded by Mark Thorne.

A lengthy and spirited discussion was held to debate the proposed 3 year teacher contract to go in effect July 1, 2012.

Topics which were raised and discussed were:

The negotiated steps.

Salary increases.

Arbitration pros and cons complete with the actual terms of arbitration as read from state statute from Heather Shea.

Comparative DRG arbitration cases with in depth discussion regarding Wilton's recent arbitration case.

Healthcare and the movement to HSA away from OAP structure. and the cost benefits.

After much debate and discussion the vote was called to question by Bill Smith.

The resolution 12-1 passed with 10 in favor and 2 against.

In favor: B. Orr, B. Smith, J. Palen, M. Thorne, J. Davis, T. Schwartz, N. McIlree, A. Rycenga, K. Hoffman, J. Sini.

Against: R. Tierney, T. Duffy

Following the vote on resolution 12-1 there was a discussion that many had voted in favor of the proposed contract yet there was concern that they voted in favor of the contract with reservation. The general tone was that while voting favorably there was a desire to state the reservations noted in the Chairman's statement when presenting our vote to the RTM. The feeling of many who voted favorably was that the alternative of rejecting the contract was negatively outweighed by the potential risks that could follow with a move to arbitration. The outcome of arbitration could result in a less favorable or

more favorable contract for the taxpayers of Darien and the risk was not something deemed worthy for potentially small gains. It was agreed that the chair would send his statement out to the committee prior to the upcoming RTM meeting for comment from the committee.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of upcoming meeting schedules for the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, RTM and the upcoming budget process.

Minutes were approved for the Scheduled meetings of RTM- Finance & Budget Committee held on 11/28/2011 and the slightly amended minutes for 1/09/2012.

The amendment to the 1/09/2012 minutes were: point 3) reject the proposed contract which require the contract to go before and arbitration panel where the decision rendered would be final and binding.

The minutes for both were approved unanimously with the following abstentions:

J. Davis and J. Palen abstained from the 11/28/11 minute vote.

A. Rycenga, J. Davis, Kirk Hoffman from the minutes vote for 1/09/2012.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Orr at 10:01 pm , seconded by all.