

Proposed Minutes
RTM-Finance and Budget Committee
Special Meeting #2
Thursday, February 11, 2015

PLACE:

Town Hall Room 213
Meeting Starts: 7:31pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Davis, Spencer McILMurray, Martha Banks, Rob Cardone, Seth Morton, Lisa Yarnell, Terry Duffy, James Howe, Charles Baldwin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Debra Ritchie, Bert Von Stuelpnagel, Steve Anderson, Marlene Hayes, Brent Hayes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Planning & Zoning Director-Jeremy Ginsberg; Planning & Zoning Commission Chair, Susan Cameron; Board of Education Chair, Michael Harmon

CALL TO ORDER

Jack Davis called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. He asked if there was a quorum. It was agreed there was and the meeting began.

Rob Cardone gave an update on the Town Administrator's Budget status and talked about how they were looking at how to lay out best the costs of the shuffle, what was originally asked for and the variances. Rob went on to say he planned to sit down soon with Kate Buch, Town Administrator to discuss several items including what had happened with the surety bond when the bonding company went under.

Rob said there were four items for which expenses needed to further split into the categories of direct, indirect and incidental. These were:

- 35 Leroy
- The Senior Center in 2 Renshaw
- The Maintenance for the Shed
- Demolition for Edgerton

Resolution 16-4: Jeremy Ginsburg, Planning and Zoning Director presented the proposal for Resolution 16-4 which was for increases in Land Use Application and Zoning Permit fees. Jeremy explained in detail when the last increases had been put in place and the P&Z's strong belief that increases would generate about \$81,000 incremental revenue over the 2014/15 budget. Jeremy reviewed how fees were determined by reviewing the costs associated with one of the fees. Jack Davis stated that P&Z was one area that several believed should not be subsidized by taxpayers' funds but rather the user. F&B and Jeremy discussed this concept and Jeremy committed to review fees and possibly return to the RTM with additional increases between December and January of the upcoming fiscal year. A schedule of proposed increases was given out including increases in the areas of:

Planning and Zoning Application Fees
Architectural Review Board Fees
Zoning Board of Appeal Fees
Zoning Permits
Environmental Protection Fees

Discussions ensued around the proposed schedules and both Spencer and Jack added their comments and suggestions on the proposal. All increases were proposed to go into effect on Sunday, April 24th at 12 noon.

A motion to recommend was made by Spencer McILMurray and seconded by Rob Cardone for approval. The motion was approved.

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Resolution 16- 5 and 16-6: Jack presented proposed Resolution 16-5 for authorization of Town to acquire 1.245 acres of land at 41 Hecker Avenue. The property which is currently owned by a cemetery, is adjacent to Town Hall and the Police Department.

The proposed purchase price of \$275K are to be paid for by a gift of \$137,500 from the Darien Land Trust and \$137,500 from a grant from the State of CT. Additionally, land acquisition trust established and funded prior to 2000 will pay for the \$2,000 to \$3,000 closing cost estimated by Wayne Fox, Town attorney. Susan Cameron added that there may be some flood mitigation capabilities at the property. A discussion of a future path, to be paid by the Darien Land Trust, occurred but recognized not to be part of this resolution. Susan Cameron explained the P&Z limitations on the property which would allow only a single dwelling.

A motion to recommend for approval of 16-6 (the Land Trust gift of \$137,500 was voted on first as it was a condition of Resolution 16-5) was made by Rob Cardone and seconded by Lisa Yarnell for approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to recommend for approval of Resolutions 16-5 (the purchase of the property predicated on the Land Trust gift and the DEEP funds from CT) made by Seth Morton and seconded by Lisa Yarnell for approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Seth Morton moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Terry Duffy. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa F. Yarnell, Clerk