

RTM Public Health & Safety Committee

May 3, 2023

Special Virtual Meeting Minutes

Attending: James Cameron, Christine Castles, Allie Constanzo, Holly Giordano, Jacqueline Miller, Thomas Moore, James Patrick, Laura Pesce-Gray, Beth Pope, Lois Schneider, Rachel Taylor, Katie Vanovitch, Penelope Wilson

Absent: Colin Kelly, and, Laura Pesce-Gray, Brian Rayhill

Also in attendance: Police Chief Donald Anderson, Police Captain Alison Hudyma, and Police Commissioner Brent Hayes

Mac Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023 and April 12 meetings. Both Unanimously approved.

Then we discussed Item 23-12, Acceptance of a Darien Foundation Grant of \$123,540 to the Darien Police Department. Alison Hudyma talked about the need to update equipment. Last time we purchased equipment was 2016. Expects 6-8 years without need for another upgrade. As long as equipment is working, we would not need to upgrade. We're one of the few coastal towns that does not have the equipment that we're ordering now. New equipment includes an infrared option—makes it easier to find people in the water at night. The item was unanimously approved. Civilian police academy reinstated. Will be another session in the fall.

Then we discussed and voted on PHS aspects of Item 23-13, the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 Town of Darien Budget, including General Capital Items. We talked about the desire for more transparency into the Fire Commission's meetings and we unanimously endorsed the PHS issues in the budget.

Announcements: The governor will hold a press conference announcing the end of the Covid health emergency on May 10th. The Public Works Committee is holding a town hall meeting about flooding issues and the recent study done of the flooding in the Salt Box Lane area.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline Miller