

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE RTM FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Place: Virtual GoTo Meeting Conference Call @ 7:30 pm

1. Call to Order: @ 7:38 pm

Committee Members Attendance:

	Jack Davis	Barry Baldwin	Luisa Brakman	Werner Domittner	Bill Dunn	Millyn Gaaserud	Beth Lane
Present	X	X		X	X		
Absent			X			X	X

	Iris Mix	Peter Orphanos	Jenny Schwartz	Bill Smith	Charles Teschner	Bert von Stuelpnagl
Present		X	X	X		
Absent	X				X	X

7 Present. 6 Absent. Needed for Quorum: 7. Quorum attained.

2. Other Attendees Present: No other attendees present.

The meeting may be viewed here: <https://dariantv79.com/rtm-finance-budget/>

3. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON SPECIAL APPROPRIATION OF \$679,394 TO REPLACE FUNDS IN THE RFCNRE

Moved: Ms. Schwartz

2nd: Mr. Baldwin

Mr. Davis provided a summary on the use of these funds and the fact that RTM approval is required for this accounting step. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023 the Town Aid Road (TAR) grant was budgeted in the Reserve for Capital & Non-recurring Expenditures (RFCNRE) but credited to the General Fund. This special appropriation is requested to move the funds into the RFCNRE. The FY2022 and 2023 budgets were already approved before the decision was made to credit the grant to the General Fund. As a result, the General Fund received additional unbudgeted revenue in both years while the RFCNRE had a revenue shortfall. The requested appropriation will replace the TAR funds in the RFCNRE.

With no further discussion, the motion was passed by 7 members present. (7:0:0).

4. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON A GIFT FROM THE DARIEN LITTLE LEAGUE

Mr. Davis provided a summary of a gift of up to \$200,000 from the Darien Little League for improvements and upgrades to McGuane Park. Costs are estimated to be less than \$200,000, which allows the DLL some contingency to not have to return to the RTM should costs exceed their expected \$130,000 to \$150,000 original cost estimates. Procurement will be prepared by the Town; however, the DLL will be paying the vendors directly.

Moved: Mr. Smith

2nd: Mr. Dunn

With no further discussion, the motion was passed by 7 members present. (7:0:0).

5. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO ORDINANCE PART VI – RULES COMMITTEE AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Davis provided a summary on the proposal for the revision of Appendix B to the Town Code: *Rules of Procedure of the Representative Town Meeting; Part VI – Rules Committee and Standing Committees*. Current language shows that some descriptions are outdated and do not reflect the current times, such as predating the internet and the existence of FOIA. In addition, the proposal codifies that committees are in existence until successors are named. In section 1.G, the committees are responsible for the areas they are assigned according to the matrix previously established, and which will be updated annually.

Mr. Davis asked committee members to review the changes to the Ordinance and provide comments by September 22nd. The proposed changes are designed to strengthen the RTM and the Standing Committee, and better reflects how we operate in today's environment.

6. UPDATE ON ARPA (active) AND HHR (on hold)

Mr. Davis provided a summary the status of the Town's ARPA funds which must be spent by 2024. Mr. Davis highlighted that the Board of Selectmen has sole authority over how ARPA funds are spent. Because the funds reside in a reserve account, any changes must go through the Board of Finance, not for approval but to set up an appropriation within that account. The ARPA Advisory Committee recommended moving some funds to close out some projects that would allow the Town to fund projects with ARPA funds rather than taxpayer monies. Completed projects include the drone, the rescue jacks, the senior tablets, replacement of some picnic tables, and some vaccines. A list of ARPA projects is included in a Board of Finance packet from August. As of August 10th, the Town has spent \$1,283,000, with \$4,401,000 allocated to projects, and \$2,029,000 in contingency.

HHR is on hold. Discussion ensued regarding bonds issued in connection with HHR and Great Island as well as a brief update on the decision to not pursue earning allowable arbitrage due to the associated costs of reporting associated.

7. UPDATE ON GREAT ISLAND

Mr. Davis informed committee members of an upcoming tour of Great Island. Public Works has been performing significant maintenance of the property. Discussion ensued on the status of the equestrian lease, safety, and easements. Mr. Davis mentioned the need to keep an accounting of the amount of work that Public Works is doing on Great Island and tie it to the Special Revenue Fund that was set up for these purposes.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 31, 2023

Moved: Ms. Schwartz
2nd: Mr. Domittner

Ms. Schwartz provided amendments to the May 31, 2023 minutes to reflect the addition of the link to the video and a change in the language around attendance.

The Motion was passed. (7:0:0).

10. MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 31, 2023

Moved: Mr. Baldwin
2nd: Mr. Domittner

The Motion was passed. (7:0:0).

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved: Mr. Orphanos
2nd: Mr. Dunn

The Motion was passed. (7:0:0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schwartz
Clerk

Date: 9/6/23