

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

March 31, 2015

Town Hall Room 206 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Mao, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All members of the Board of Finance were present except Mr Lopiano. Also in attendance were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Selectman Susan Marks, RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye and Finance Director Kate Clarke Buch. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The budgets for Darien Library, Human Services, Senior Center, Youth Services, Public Health, Capital, Contingency, Debt Service and Revenue were discussed.

The board discussed the fire drill tower. Mr Zagrodzky described the discussion with the Fire Commission regarding the type of repairs to be made and the need for the “old” drill tower. The “old” tower is a burn tower and is used frequently by the volunteers.

Alan Gray, Library Director, was present to answer questions regarding the Library’s grant. He noted that, due to savings in medical insurance, they will be \$30,000 under budget this year. He noted that audit costs were increasing and that the increased cost would be split between the Town’s grant and the Friends of the Library funds. He then discussed the proposed LED Lighting Project with the board. The board advised that they felt the Library should take advantage of the zero percent financing offered by EverSource to fund the project.

The Board agreed to add \$375 to the Senior Center budget for printing of newsletters.

The Board discussed various capital budgets, including the possibility of financing some projects through bonding.

REVENUE Mrs. Buch presented some proposed changes to revenue estimates.

Mr. Jim Palen, Chairman of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee, presented some suggestions from his committee to be considered in budget deliberations. They include:

- Increase user fees commensurate with increases in expenses
- Review liability and medical insurance to reduce the year-over-year increase
- The total increase, including capital, is too high
- The target for the property tax increase should be 3.5% or less.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr Orr made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr Huck. The motion passed 6 – 0 at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Zagrodzky
Acting Clerk