

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

March 25, 2014

Town Hall Room 206 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Mao, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. All members of the Board of Finance were present. Also in attendance was Finance Director Kate Clarke Buch. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Parks & Recreation – Chairman Liz Mao and Bruce Orr reviewed this budget.

- The overall budget is up a little more than 16%, due to the consolidation of facilities management.
- One capital cost noted is the addition of cameras in the Senior Center for safety.

Fire Departments – Jon Zagrodzky and David Lopiano reviewed this budget

Darien Fire Department

- Capital items requested were turnout gear, bottle replacement and a few tools for fire rescue.

Noroton Heights Fire Department

- Capital increased due to higher prices for turn out gear, motor fuel, air bottles and breathing apparatus.

Fire Marshal

- The Town rejected the request for additional staff. An individual from the Police Department will be available to help with some of the part-time help needed. Bruce Orr will check with the PD to ensure that part time help will not impact Police overtime budget.

Disaster Preparedness

- The large increase is due to the complete rewrite of the town plan. The current plan is based off of a state template, and there is information in the template that does not pertain to a town of Darien's size.

Emergency Service Radio System

- Discussion of replacement of the existing infrastructure revealed that more work needs to be completed to insure that the new systems are not going to be affected by the coming T-Band changes by the National Public Safety Telecommunication Council, and also that the technology chosen is not outdated before installation.

Fire Commission

- The town denied the repairs to the burn tower, which is used for training and is in need of repair. The Fire Commission needs to validate the cost of using another town's tower vs. the cost of repair.

Animal Control

- Small increase in this budget due to additional training and certifications required by the State of Connecticut.

Police Department – Jamie McLaughlin and Bruce Orr reviewed this budget.

- 62% of the budget is for patrol that is in the collective bargaining agreement.
- Current civilian dispatch recommendation to hire 9 full time civilian employees has been removed from the budget. This would increase the Police budget by more than 1 million dollars.
- Mr. McLaughlin felt that the vehicle fleet could be managed more efficiently and that maintenance/replacement should be scrutinized.

Sewer Operations – Frank Huck reviewed this budget.

- Contract has been settled with Stamford.
- There are no initiatives for new sewers.
- New sewer initiatives are typically started only when the installation will be covered by user fees.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Bruce Orr made a motion to adjourn. Frank Huck seconded the motion. Passed 7 – 0 at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Lopiano
Clerk