

**MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 8, 2017**

RECEIVED
MAY 15 2017
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
DARIEN CT.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Donna Rajczewski, Town Clerk.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

From District I, there were 8 members present, 4 absent.
From District II, there were 15 members present, 1 absent.
From District III, there were 12 members present, 3 absent.
From District IV, there were 14 members present, 2 absent.
From District V, there were 17 members present, 0 absent.
From District VI, there were 13 members present, 4 absent.

The absentees from District I were: Ezbiansky, Keane, Pattelli, Schneider.
The absentee from District II was : Howe.
The absentees from District III were: Anderson, Vitale, Washecka.
The absentees from District IV were: McKay, Raben.
The absentees from District VI were: Luz, Natale, Plehaty, Poli.

The Moderator, Seth Morton, assumed the Chair.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

The Moderator changed the order of the Agenda to put Item C at the beginning of Item 17-15.

**** THE REVISED AGENDA WAS ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2017 MEETING

**** THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (CHERYL RUSSELL).**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator announced that there would be a WESTCOG Presentation on the future of Darien on May 11th.

17-13

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON A LEASE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DARIEN AND THE DARIEN ARTS CENTER, INC.

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien and The Darien Arts Center, Inc., had a lease for the DAC Weatherstone Studio and the Art Room for a term ending June 30, 2016 for the premises located within the Darien Town Hall at 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien and The Darien Arts Center, Inc., are desirous in entering into a lease which will run from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, any such lease requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen and the Representative Town Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has previously approved this new ten year lease; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Darien issued a favorable report pursuant to § 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease together with the necessary documentation are available for review in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Darien.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby approves said lease by and between the Town of Darien and The Darien Arts Center, Inc.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Mark Adiletta, District V, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**** ITEM 17-13 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 76 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

17-14

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON AN AMENDMENT TO DARIEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE DARIEN EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN PENSION CAP

**** FRANK KEMP, DISTRICT IV, CHAIRMAN OF TGS&A, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien (the "Town") for several years has been negotiating with various bargaining units covered under the Town of Darien Employee Retirement Plan (the "Plan") to implement a cap on the Pension benefits under the plan;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-181 of the Town of Darien Code of Ordinances, the Plan may be amended by the Town's Board of Selectmen (the "Board") with approval of the Board of Finance and a Representative Town Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Town has reached an agreement with eight different bargaining units to implement a cap on the Pension benefits with different effective dates for different agreements;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the following amendment to section 50-91 of the Town Code, effective 07/01/2017 or such later date as may be established in the individual bargaining unit agreements, is hereby approved.

Section 50-91 of the Darien Code of Ordinances shall be amended to include the following language on what will become a new paragraph (c):

Effective 07/01/2017, or such later date as may be established in the individual bargaining unit agreements, no annual retirement benefit shall exceed a maximum of seventy percent (70%) of the employee's "average annual compensation" as defined by Section 50-36 of the Darien Code.

Notwithstanding the above, employees with at least twenty-five (25) years of credited service in the pension plan on 07/01/2017, or such later date as may be established in the individual bargaining unit agreements, shall not receive an annual retirement benefit plan that is greater than:

1. seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee's "average annual compensation" as defined by Section 50-36 of the Darien Code.

or

2. the percentage of the employee's "average annual compensation" as defined by Section 50-36 of the Darien Code that he/she would have been entitled to receive had he/she retired on 07/01/2017, or such later date as may be established in the individual bargaining unit agreements.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Frank Kemp, District IV, read the TGS&A Committee report (attached).

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**** ITEM 17-14 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 77 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

17-15

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, the Board of Finance of the Town of Darien approved the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 Budget at a meeting on April 11, 2017;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby adopts the following appropriations for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 budget;

- A. An appropriation in the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures of \$6,710,656;
- B. An appropriation in the General Fund to the Selectmen's Operating Budget of \$49,429,285;
- C. An appropriation in the General Fund to the Education Operating Budget of \$95,874,776;
- D. That the above appropriations in the General Fund, totaling \$145,304,061 are for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Town of Darien for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 as shown by the budget this day approved.
- E. Appropriations for other funds are hereby made below for the 2017-2018 fiscal year as shown by the budget this day approved;

1. From the Sewer Operating Fund	\$ 3,679,143
2. From the Sewer Assessment Fund	\$ 550,000
3. From the Sewer Capital Fund	\$ 198,000
4. From the Parking Lot Administration Fund	\$ 1,061,678
5. From the Parking Lot Capital Fund	\$ 530,500

- F. That a tax of 16.16 mills is hereby levied upon the last complete grand list of the Town with a total net assessment of \$8,512,539,479 on property as of October 1, 2016 payable in two equal semi-annual installments, the first installment to become due and payable on July 1, 2017 and the second installment to become due and payable on January 1, 2018, provided however that:

- 1. Any taxpayer may pay both of said installments on July 1, 2017;

2. The personal property tax on motor vehicles in said Town shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2017.
3. Any property tax in any amount not in excess of one hundred (\$100) dollars shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2017.

G. That the Town of Darien, acting through its Board of Selectmen, and subject to the approval of said Town at the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to be held May 8, 2017, be authorized to borrow on the note or notes of the Town the sum of five million (\$5,000,000) dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary for the general expenses of the Town pending the collection of either or both of said semi-annual installments of taxes on or prior to June 30, 2018.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

C. An appropriation in the General Fund to the Education Operating Budget of \$95,874,776;

Jack Davis, District III, read the Finance & Budget Committee report (attached).

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson read the report of the Board of Selectmen (attached).

Jon Zagrodzky, Chairman of the Board of Finance, read that body's report (attached).

Dennis Maroney, District III, Chairman of the Education Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Michael Harman, Chairman of the Board of Education, read the Board of Education report (attached).

Jay Hardison, District IV, asked if they were discussing the operating budget or the capital budget, and the Moderator confirmed that it was the operating budget.

Frank Adelman, District VI, said this was Item 17-15C.

Joanne Hennessy, District V, said that they all support education. She has received many e-mails. She was impressed with the amount of the increase because there have been many increases. She attended many meetings at which there were unanswered questions. She was concerned about the seven additional staff. She does not know what this is going to be going forward. This budget will probably pass, but the taxpayers have to be kept more in the forefront.

Elise Feldman, District III, said there is a strong belief that this budget will help the children and the taxpayers because of the impact on their properties.

**** ITEM 17-15C CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 64 IN FAVOR, 7 OPPOSED, 7 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

A. An appropriation in the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures of \$6,710,656

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Mark Adiletta, District V, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Dennis Maroney, District III, Chairman of the Education Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Adele Conniff, District III, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee, read the committee report, covering both the capital and operating budgets (attached).

Elisabeth Bacon, District II, said it sounds as if the Education Committee and the Finance & Budget Committee had a lot of difficulty in getting needed information. She would like to hear from the Board of Education.

Michael Harman, Chairman of the Board of Education, had no comment.

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of Finance & Budget, said that Mrs. Bacon was correct. It was difficult, but he and Dennis Maroney spoke with Mr. Harman and other BOE members and have decided to work on the problem.

Elisabeth Bacon said she would like the Board of Education to speak for themselves.

Michael Harman, Chairman of the Board of Education, said they have made a concerted effort to get the information out. This is a lengthy process and has been a challenge to get the information out.

Jay Hardison, District IV, said that he had made a motion at the Finance & Budget meeting to cut \$1,400,000 from this budget because the Board of Education has another year to work with this cafeteria issue.

**** JAY HARDISON, DISTRICT IV, MOVED TO CUT \$1,400,000 FROM THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES (17-15A1)**

Mr. Hardison said that the architect had told him that they could achieve a 25% reduction by getting better furniture.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Mr. Hardison continued, saying that the architect told him that you generally plan for a cafeteria with an 85% to 90% capacity every day. They may be able to get this done by replacing the furniture, which will save \$1,400,000.

Stacey Tie, District II, said it is not in their purview to dictate to the Board of Education as to the capital budget. The Moderator said that it was within their purview to do so, and Mrs. Tie disagreed.

Clara Sartori, District II, asked if it would be two years before the money would be spent. The Moderator said it would be two years, but they have to go out to bid, so the money has to be in place.

Lucy Fiore, District IV, said she is on the Education Committee and has spent much time listening and debating this. She is convinced that they don't need to spend this money on the cafeteria. 2.1% of an already enormous budget is a lot of money. Their schools are excellent and will continue to be excellent. The entitlement bubble needs to be burst. The portables need to be replaced before the cafeteria is fixed. They are taxing empty nesters right out of town.

Michael Harman, Chairman of the Board of Education, said their architect has provided a response. They were looking for the solution and decided on the sixth version of the process. They are working with their experts to come up with the solution that makes the most sense.

David Martin, District V, who is also a member of the Finance & Budget Committee, said that Mr. Hardison has done a great deal of work. There are 1,412 students projected, but that does not include an additional 147 students from four periods. There would be 58 high school students; 368 kids for each long session. He read what the Fire Marshal would state, saying he could not see how it would work.

Jon Zagrodzky, Chairman of the Board of Finance, said he is a big believer in civility. If you cut \$1,700,000 to \$300,000 for furniture, they could force the Board of Education to do that. They cannot be forced to spend the \$300,000 on furniture. To have an impact on taxes, you would have to take a more drastic action. He was confident that this would be doing it right.

Arpita Muchhal, District VI, said she spoke to the students and found there was a problem with students finding a seat to eat lunch, especially freshmen. She put this on her Facebook page, and out of 23 comments, only 2 were opposed to the expansion.

Joanne Hennessy, District V, said that Federal increased the number of units for their project toward 1-bedroom units. Since the cafeteria is not being done this year, perhaps they can do more research.

Elise Feldman, District III, asked if, in order for this to happen in the summer of 2018, they would have to start now, and Mr. Zagrodzky, Chairman of the Board of Finance, responded

affirmatively. Mrs. Feldman said that she agreed that not having a place to sit to eat causes a psychological problem.

Dennis Maroney, District III, said they only have a sketch and asked why they were approving without a full plan.

Michael Harman, Chairman of the Board of Education, said that they can't go out for an RFP without an appropriation.

**** ADELE CONNIFF, DISTRICT III, CALLED THE QUESTION.
** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

The Moderator said that he had already recognized Jay Hardison, so he would be allowed to speak.

Jay Hardison, District IV, said they were looking for alternatives but were told by the Board of Education that it was their way or the highway.

**** THE MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION PASSED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 68 IN FAVOR, 9 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

**** ITEM 17-15A1 FAILED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 18 IN FAVOR, 57 OPPOSED, 3 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CALLED THE QUESTION ON ITEM 17-15A.
** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.
** THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**** ITEM 17-15A CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 67 IN FAVOR, 7 OPPOSED, 4 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

B. An appropriation in the General Fund to the Selectmen's Operating Budget of \$49,429,285;

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Mark Adiletta, District V, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, read the committee report ((attached)).

James Patrick, District V, Chairman of the Public Health & Safety Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**** ITEM 17-15B CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 79 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

D. That the above appropriations in the General Fund, totaling \$145,304,061 are for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Town of Darien for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 as shown by the budget this day approved.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

**** ITEM 17-15D CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, VHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

E. Appropriations for other funds are hereby made below for the 2017-2018 fiscal year as shown by the budget this day approved;

1. From the Sewer Operating Fund	\$ 3,679,143
2. From the Sewer Assessment Fund	\$ 550,000
3. From the Sewer Capital Fund	\$ 198,000
4. From the Parking Lot Administration Fund	\$ 1,061,678
5. From the Parking Lot Capital Fund	\$ 530,500

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**** 17-15E CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 74 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

F. That a tax of 16.16 mills is hereby levied upon the last complete grand list of the Town with a total net assessment of \$8,512,539,479 on property as of October 1, 2016 payable in two equal semi-annual installments, the first installment to become due and payable on July 1, 2017 and the second installment to become due and payable on January 1, 2018, provided however that:

1. Any taxpayer may pay both of said installments on July 1, 2017;
2. The personal property tax on motor vehicles in said Town shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2017.
3. Any property tax in any amount not in excess of one hundred (\$100) dollars shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2017.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**** 17-15F CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 71 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED, 2 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

G. That the Town of Darien, acting through its Board of Selectmen, and subject to the approval of said Town at the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to be held May 8, 2017, be authorized to borrow on the note or notes of the Town the sum of five million (\$5,000,000) dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary for the general expenses of the Town pending the collection of either or both of said semi-annual installments of taxes on or prior to June 30, 2018.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the Committee report (attached).

**** 17-15G CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 72 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSTENTIONS.**

17-16

APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000,000 FOR REFUNDING OF CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S BONDS AND AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien is desirous of taking advantage of favorable interest rates and refinancing existing bond obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien authorizes the authorization, issuance and sale of Town of Darien General Obligation Refunding Bonds in the amount of Thirty Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$30,000,000) as more particularly set out in the resolution attached hereto and made part hereof.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**** 17-16 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 72 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSTENTIONS.**

**** UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN AT 11:15 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco Blois
Telesco Secretarial Services

Appendix May 8, 2017 Budget Meeting

	Amendment										
	17-13	17-14	17-15C	Call ? 17-15A-1	17-15A-1	17-15A	17-15B	17-15E	17-15F	17-15G	17-16
DISTRICT I											
Baldwin	absent	absent	absent	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Barsanti	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bumgardner	absent	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Butler	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Carter	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Conologue	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ezbiansky	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Keane	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Kelly	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lee	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	absustain	absustain
Lublin	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Pattelli	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Schneider	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Von Stuelpnagel	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

DISTRICT II

Bacon	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Boulter	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cusack	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Goertel	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Handler, Susanne	yes	yes	yes	yes	absustain	yes	yes	absent	absent	absent	absent
Howe	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
McNally	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Miller	yes	yes	yes	yes	absustain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mix	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Pommernelle	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Russell	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sartori	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sawitsky	yes	yes	absustain	no	yes	absustain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Thorne	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tie	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Wheeler	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Appendix May 8, 2017 Budget Meeting

	17-13		17-14		17-15C		Call ?		Amendment					17-16	
							17-15A-1	17-15A-1	17-15A-1	17-15A	17-15B	17-15E	17-15F	17-15G	
DISTRICT III															
Anderson	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Cardone	yes	yes	abstain	no	yes	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Conniff	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Davis, Jack	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Feldman	yes	yes	yes	abstain	yes	abstain	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Giordano	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Maroney	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
McGoey	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mitchell	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Moore	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Morton	DOES NOT VOTE														
Riordan	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Vitale	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Washecka	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Yarnell	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
DISTRICT IV															
Banks	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cameron	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Davis, Joan	yes	yes	abstain	yes	yes	abstain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Fiore	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hardison	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Hawkins, Phyllis	yes	yes	yes	absent	yes	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Kemp	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
McKay	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Miceli	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Millar	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Montanaro	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Morrison	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Peters	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Raben	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Rayhill	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Savage	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Appendix May 8, 2017 Budget Meeting

	Amendment											
	17-13	17-14	17-15C	Call ?	17-15A-1	17-15A-1	17-15A	17-15B	17-15E	17-15F	17-15G	17-16
DISTRICT V												
Adiletta	yes	yes	abstain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bayne, Carolyn	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bayne, David	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Boulton	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Duffy	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	abstain	abstain	yes	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain
Fiverson	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Haueisen	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hayes, Marli	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hennessy	yes	yes	abstain	yes	yes	abstain	abstain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Martin	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
McLachlin	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mosher	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Patrick	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Reed	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Smith	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sparkman	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ven	yes	yes	abstain	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

DISTRICT VI

Adelman	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cantavero	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain
Chickles	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Grogan	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Handler, Mia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain
Hawkins, Ted	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain
Lauritzen	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Luz	absent	absent	absent	absent								
McDermott	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Muchhal	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Natale	absent	absent	absent	absent								
Plehaty	absent	absent	absent	absent								
Poli	absent	absent	absent	absent								

Appendix May 8, 2017 Budget Meeting

				Call ?	Amendment						
	17-13	17-14	17-15C	17-15A-1	17-15A-1	17-15A	17-15B	17-15E	17-15F	17-15G	17-16
Ritchie	absent	absent	abstain	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	abstain	yes	yes
Silby	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Swenson	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Van Loan	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

DISTRICT VI con't

**(17-13) Consideration and action on a lease between the Town of
Darien and the Darien Arts Center, Inc
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report**

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

*I move RTM Resolution (17-13) Consideration and action on a lease between the
Town of Darien and the Darien Arts Center, Inc.*

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

The lease is for the Weatherstone Studio and the Art Room within Darien Town Hall. Use of the room is subject to a special permit from Planning and Zoning which issued their report April 5, 2017 granting said permit.

The lease is for 10 years with the rent starting at \$25,965.56 and increasing to \$30,422.80 at the end of the ten year period. The period covered by the lease is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2026. The DAC is required to maintain a minimum \$2MM comprehensive general liability policy with a Broad Form endorsement as well as a minimum \$1MM comprehensive general liability policy for full replace cost of the facilities.

The amount of the incremental lease revenue over the prior lease revenue is not in the BOS operating budget and considered immaterial to the overall budget.

At our meeting on April 23, 2017 with 11 of 15 members present, the F&B committee voted unanimously to approve this resolutions and recommend the same to the full RTM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Davis
RTM Finance and Budget, Chair

Good evening.

My name is *Mark Adiletta* and I am Chair of the Public Works Subcommittee to the RTM.

At a Regular Session of the PWC held May 1st, with 7 of 11 members present, the PWC considered and voted “unanimously” to recommend approval of this item to the full RTM.

Background:

This item involves a 10-year lease between the Town and the Darien Arts Center, Inc. effective back to 7/1/16 when the previous lease lapsed. This lease is to allow the DAC to continue its operations in that facility at Town Hall. The terms of the lease were discussed by the PWC.

Committee members noted the following:

The new designation and location of 14 parking spaces for DAC customers, implemented for the sake of safety, and that these had been accommodated while placing limits on scheduling activities during certain times of the day to minimize the impact on Town employees.

The Town generally has the right to terminate the lease w/ 9-month notice. The DAC may terminate with 90-day notice. This made sense to the PWC members given the lead time in scheduling DAC programs.

It was noted as “odd” for the Owner (Town) to provide all utilities in a triple-net-lease. That said it made sense given the facility is integrated within the Town Hall facility in general.

It was noted as favorable that the DAC was responsible for all upgrades needed to the facility including any related to health, fire or safety code compliance.

It was noted as favorable that the DAC was responsible for maintenance of its own space.

Remarks – Frank Kemp – re: Resolution 17-14 (Darien Employee Retirement Plan Pension Cap)

Good evening My name is Frank Kemp, Chairman of the Town Government Structure and Administration Committee - TGS&A.

At this time I would like to move Item 17-14 – Regarding Amending Section 50-91 of the Darien Code of Ordinances – the Section that is titled: “Retirement at normal or deferred retirement date.”

Do I have a Second? Thank you.

Do I have a motion to waive the reading of the resolution? Thank you.

On Monday April 17, 2017, the TGS&A Committee (seven of eleven attending) met jointly with the RTM Finance and Budget Committee to discuss these pending modifications to Section 50-91 of the Town Code, relating to pension cap agreements.

As background on this matter, each collective bargaining agreement in the past two years has included the key language that you see in this Amendment – that is, no annual retirement benefit shall exceed a maximum of seventy percent of the employee’s “average annual compensation” as defined in the Code, with the exception of current employees who are “grandfathered” at seventy five percent, or the amount that they would have received if they were to retire on July 1st of this year.

Consistent with the report from F&B, next on timetable this evening, the TGS&A proceed to approve, unanimously, a favorable report on the resolution to the RTM, recommending that you vote favorably on this item this evening.

Thank you.

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(17-14) Consideration and action on an amendment to Darien's Code of Ordinances regarding the Darien Employee Retirement Plan Pension Cap

RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report

I am Jack Davis, District 3, Chair of the RTM Finance and Budget Committee

As previously discussed, the Town has agreed to and the RTM approved several town employee union contracts where the Pension plan was capped. We needed to wait until all union contracts were completed. This resolutions simply puts the verbiage of the contracts into the ordinances. It is a housekeeping exercise. Town consul has recommended that the verbiage be in the ordinance.

On our meeting on April 23, 2017 held jointly with the TGSA committee, with 11 of 15 members present, the RTM F&B committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance change and recommend same to the full RTM.

Respectfully submitted
Jack Davis
RTM Finance & Budget Chair

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report**

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

I move RTM Resolution (17-15) Authorizing and Approving the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 Budget. Is there a second?

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

The F&B committee met many times during the past 6 months at both regular and special meetings dedicated primarily to discussing and taking action on this budget; its component parts and the resulting resolutions that are before us tonight. These meetings were in addition to the countless BOS, BOE and BOF meetings that committee members attended as well as individual meetings with various town employees and the Board of Education sub-committee meetings. On most other budget approval nights, I might say F&B's job is done, but more work lies ahead – more on that later.

Our committee is divided into two subcommittees – the Board of Education Budget subcommittee is chaired by Deb Ritchie and the Board of Selectman Budget subcommittee is chaired by Robert Cardone. Lisa Yarnell served as the committee's Clerk and we greatly appreciate her work.

I would like to take this time to thank the Board of Selectman, Board of Education, Board of Finance and the many town staff for their significant work over the past the months working to put together this year's budget. Virtually all of our elected officials are volunteers and they each dedicate significant time and effort to the budget process. A special thanks to Kate Buch, Town Administrator and Jennifer Charneski, Finance Director; Michael Feeney, BOE Director of Finance and Operations, Michael Lynch, BOE Director of Facilities and our Superintendent Dr Brenner. We would also like to thank Shelly Skoglund and Julie Mengwall and the numerous parents that attended, participated and provided perspectives during this budget.

This year F&B continued evolving its budget process. What is commonly referred to as the "buddy system", F&B members team up with Board of Finance members whereby the RTM actively participated with the Board of Finance's deep dives into the budgets and their meetings with town officials. This process facilitated open conversations throughout the budget process resulting in

significant F&B input to and collaboration with the Board of Finance prior to their April 13th budget vote. The buddy system is just the start. The RTM has been actively involved in the Park & Rec Master Plan. And the BOS and BOE are inviting the RTM into conversations earlier in the process. At the most recent BOS meeting, F&B was invited to join the tax abatement modelling associated with the Old Town Hall development. The BOE invited F&B and Education committees to hear proposed structural changes to MMS preliminarily presented at their last meeting. Most importantly, significant work relating to budgets and "what ifs" will begin this summer going into fall led by BOF chair, Jon Zagrodzky. The RTM F&B committee will be actively involved in this work.

Let's address one of the elephants in the room. We once again have a budget year with the dark cloud of Hartford's budget uncertainty looming.

- For the first time in almost 30 years, the legislative appropriations committee failed to introduce a budget.
- Shortfalls in revenue estimates continue only widening the State's budget gap.
- Governor Malloy's budget proposed that 1/3 of the cost of "education certified staff pensions," commonly referred to as the Teacher's pension, should be passed to communities – potentially adding an incremental \$4MM to our Town's expenses.
- Another \$2,2MM potential cut to the Excess Cost Reimbursement calculation, the State's payment for communities that acts as a safety net for high cost SPED students, has been proposed as the Governor and members of the legislature continue to drain financially sound communities of resources.
- Other proposals include Regionalization exist, SPED pools proposed by one of our own town's representatives – all resulting in draining further resources from Darien.
- On the other hand, as discussed at the last BOS meeting, the other side's budget proposal would add approximately \$750M to Darien's state funding not in the proposed budget.
- And it appears the State's legislature will not meet their June 7th budget deadline.
- Looks pretty ominous. It creates fear and angst. And I suspect some might use this calling for immediate action tonight – but action on what?

Let me say that our Town officials have addressed these unknowns in the budget presented tonight.

- Some state funding has been reduced or eliminated in the proposed budget.

- They have built in flexibility in this budget to address some of the remaining unknowns and potential revenue risks within the BOS budget that I will address when discussing the BOS operating budget.
- The BOE has kept the ECR reimbursement in their budget rather than react to an unknown and potentially over tax our citizens for an event that may not occur.
- If all else fails and the town is hit with large unanticipated expenses from the State, the BOF has the authority to issue a supplemental tax to collect required revenue, if and only if, such events occur.
- As previously mentioned, the start of "what ifs" will begin this summer to address not only the final Hartford current 2017/18 budget but also potential scenarios for 2018/19.
- And the basis for sound and prudent fiscal policy should be fact based.

I would like to briefly discuss the flexibility built into this budget to cover some of the risks associated with Hartford. As we will discuss during the RTM vote on capital projects, none of the current capital projects are slated for bonding within this specific budget. This gives the BOF, with subsequent approval of the RTM, some added flexibility. The proposed cost of three projects – DHS cafeteria (\$1.7MM), the DHS shed (\$250M) and the Town Hall generator (\$260M) – if bonded down the road equals \$2.2MM – the potential loss should changes occur to the Excess Cost Reimbursement or other revenue shortfalls. Bonding of those projects would eliminate the need for supplemental taxes or additional drawdowns on our Fund balances which are planned to remain at a healthy 11% of the proposed budgets (a key metric in calculating our Town's Bond ratings).

In summary, our town remains in strong financial shape even as we are entering a "new reality" going forward. And our Boards in collaboration with the RTM will address this "new reality" through thoughtful, collaborative discussions this summer.

This budget represents a lower tax increase than the one adopted last year. The Town of Darien's credit rating remains at 'Aaa' from Moody's, our town continues to deliver great services; continues to invest in the town's infrastructure and is constantly recognized for the high quality of education that it delivers. We are further benefited from the many, many volunteer organizations and their members.

That said, our budget continues to rise year after year as a result of increased wages and healthcare costs for our town's employee; and the need to reinvest in our infrastructure to deliver the services that our residents enjoy.

The budget proposed by the Board of Finance this year is:

- \$145.3mm, up \$4.7mm (or 3.35%) over last year's \$140.6mm. This year's increase is lower in percentage than last year's but not lower in dollars.
- In order to fund this year's budget proposed taxation will be \$135.4mm, up 3.14% versus the prior year. The \$9.8mm difference between the \$145.3mm that we spend and the \$135.4mm needed to be collected in taxes, is from a combination of sources including a [\$1.1mm] drawn down in our cash balances (flat from the prior year) and the remaining balance of \$8.8mm, up \$579m or 7.1% from revenues including state grants, licenses, permits, fines, charges for services, investment income and a host of other non-property tax sources.
- Finally, our town's adjusted grand list grew from \$8.313bn to \$8.379bn, or 0.79%, adding approximately \$1mm of incremental tax revenue resulting in a mill rate increase of 2.47%.

To recap:

Budget is up 3.35%

Revenues are up 7.1%

Including state grants down

Taxes required to fund expenditures are up 3.14%

Grand List is up 0.79%

... Results in a proposed Mil Rate that is up 2.47%

And for the first time in a number of years, our tax increase approximates the level of inflation of which has ranged between 2.07 to 2.74% in December through March year to year comparisons

The proposed mill rate is 16.16 up from 15.77 last year.

Contained in the resolution before you tonight are 7 different items - A through G - the three most important items are: Town's Operating Budget; Education Operating Budget and the appropriation of Capital.

The remaining items D through G are more mathematical or administrative as they simply sum up other parts of the budget; generate the necessary mill rate to raise taxes that will be sufficient to fund what we will spend; establish transfers to other Town funds or allow us to borrow short term debt if there is a timing difference between the Town's spending and receipt of tax revenues.

The past few years, the RTM voted on the items in this resolution separately; we will do the same this year and as such I will deliver the F&B report on each item and then return the floor to the moderator for other committee reports, elected official comments, discussion and questions from the RTM members and public comments.

Jayme Stevenson
First Selectman
May 8, 2017

Good evening Mr. Moderator, RTM members, fellow elected officials and taxpayers watching Channel 79. I would like to respectfully ask that you approve the Board of Selectmen's operating and capital requests as recommended by the Board of Finance. The diligence with which this budget has been crafted has resulted in a budget that restrains spending to accommodate expected services and needed infrastructure investment.

There are 4 primary drivers of the Board of Selectmen's budget:

1. **Anticipated Town Growth** - This budget makes the needed investment in part time personnel to assist the Palmer, Federal Realty, Baywater Properties, Old Town Hall Homes, Atria and various other redevelopment projects precede smoothly. Annual evaluations will be made to justify the ongoing need for these new part time positions. Our town will benefit greatly from the growth in our commercial tax base once these projects are completed but investments must be made upfront to insure their success. Two additional civilian dispatchers are being requested to allow for higher cost, sworn officers to be redeployed to enforcement activities.
2. **Debt Service** - The Board Selectmen and Board of Finance continue to make wise decisions in infrastructure investment during this period of low interest rates. Bonds have been refinanced, strategic land investments including the acquisition of a portion of the Ox Ridge Hunt Club have been made and plans are moving forward to renovate the Town Garage. These and other long term investments are the drivers of the \$991,000 in additional debt service for the coming year.
3. **Personnel** - Government service is a people intensive business and the number of employees is a direct result of the level of service our taxpayers demand. We continue to bargain meaningful modifications to employee contracts that allow for sustainable expenditures and fair compensation. The high quality of our employees is central to the success of the services we provide.
4. **State Mandates and Municipal Aid Impacts** – State aid to cities and towns is largely unknown at this point in the state budget process. There are 60 days left in the current fiscal year. Legislators have the incomprehensible task of closing a roughly \$400 million current year deficit caused by well-below projected income tax revenues and setting biennium budget policy to address a looming \$5 billion deficit projected for the next two years. Leadership in Hartford has stated that all solutions are still on the table at this point including the potential for a hike in income tax on the wealthy, an increase in the sales tax, non-profits (including hospitals) to pay property tax, tolls, teacher pension sharing, labor concessions and state employee layoffs.

The budget before you takes into consideration the dire state budget situation and does not budget for the receipt of the traditional Education Cost Sharing Grant. It does, however, include reimbursements for special education. We debated the idea of taxing for the possibility of sharing in the cost of our teacher's pension, as recommended by Governor Malloy, but given the tremendous uncertainty of the state's budget deliberations, we didn't feel this was a wise budget maneuver and could likely result in over taxing our residents and businesses. Should this come to pass, we have the opportunity to address this in next year's budget or in a supplemental tax levy.

While the idea of consolidating local health departments into Regional Health Districts, which was proposed to cost Darien nearly \$2 million, is off the table for this year, there are other state mandates still pending in Hartford...Workers' compensation coverage for PTSD resulting from employees witnessing a death (extraordinary and unquantifiable financial impact) and not allowing property improvements to be assessed until Certificates of Occupancy are issued (\$100k reduction in annual revenue).

Before I conclude, I want to publicly acknowledge the generosity of public/private partnerships with our 3 volunteer fire departments, Post 53, the Darien Athletic Foundation (DHS fields and lights), the Darien Land Trust (Hecker), Friends of Gorham's Pond (Upper Pond), Friends of the Darien Library, our non-profit human service providers and volunteers with the Beautification Commission and Cemetery Committee. Without the expertise and generosity of these organizations, taxpayers would bear significantly higher tax burden to cover service costs. Not only do these wonderful organizations save us money but they are foundational to making our community one of the best towns in Connecticut to live and raise a family. Thank you for your generosity.

I also want to thank the members of the RTM for their commitment to participating in the budget process from the start. Your early involvement has been very constructive.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the Board of Selectmen's operation and capital budgets for fiscal year 2017-18.

2017-18 BUDGET – REMARKS TO THE RTM
DARIEN BOARD OF FINANCE
JON ZAGRODZKY, CHAIRMAN
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Good evening. I appreciate the opportunity to address you tonight about the budget.

I'd like to start with a 'thank you' to the RTM for its involvement in this process. I very much appreciate your energy, ideas, passion and partnership. It's clear that everyone involved cares deeply about the town and its governance. Whatever differences were apparent should not overshadow the well-meaning efforts of so many here tonight. I sincerely hope that the collaboration we have been nurturing between the RTM committees and other town boards will continue to grow and improve. So, again, thank you.

I'm here to reiterate the Board of Finance's support for the budget we passed and sent to you on April 11. I remain convinced that this is a reasonable budget worthy of your vote. It strikes a responsible balance between constraint and investment, and it maintains our tradition of efficiently providing town services and a quality education for our children. The overall mill rate increase, at just 2.47%, is the second lowest increase I've seen in my nearly nine years on the Board of Finance.

Despite this high-level success, there has been a lot of concern in this body below the surface about specific initiatives as well as the specter of Hartford's financial challenges spilling over into Darien.

One area of controversy has been the Superintendent's plans to create the Fitch Academy, a separate high school within a high school, which is meant to address the needs of students who struggle in a traditional school environment and who would otherwise be candidates for expensive, out-of-district options. There's a modest initial cost, with the prospect of a larger program in the future, but the goal of this experiment is to see if we can get a reduction in out-of-district placements. Another source of success may come from revenue – if the program really works, we might be able to share it with other districts and charge them accordingly. Ultimately, the savings and revenue could offset the costs. I realize that long-term plans have yet to be fully developed, but surely this is an experiment worth pursuing.

Another area of controversy is the curriculum coordinators for both regular and special education.

I have made it clear for quite a while that one of the best ways to keep our long-term spending under control is to maintain a tight lid on staff growth. So, when I learned about these initiatives, I can assure you that they had my full attention. I spent considerable time with Michael Harman and Dr. Brenner to make sure I understood the rationale behind these efforts.

As I understand Dr. Brenner's view, there are significant constraints in the district's ability to advance the quality of curriculum development, refinement and delivery, particularly versus what he experienced prior to his arrival in Darien.

I believe he carefully considered multiple solutions to the problem and was mindful of our admonition about personnel costs. He believes that this solution, while expensive, will resolve his serious concerns. I remain worried about adding staff, but except for special education, District staff growth over the last several years, as Dennis Maroney described in last week's Education Committee meeting, has actually been quite constrained, which means that they have not been adding staff indiscriminately.

Dr. Brenner is the superintendent and has identified a problem he feels important to resolve, and he is still doing so while delivering a budget with just a 2% increase, a historic low and a percentage he intends to deliver next year as well. Given his bottom-line stewardship and the careful trade-offs he has obviously made, I am willing to set aside, just in this instance, my strong aversion to staff growth. I think we should allow him the latitude to address these curriculum issues in the way he recommends.

It is worth remembering at this point, by the way, that neither the RTM nor the Board of Finance has the power to cut individual programs from the school budget. Overall dollar cuts, yes, but the Board of Education is under no obligation to direct these cuts to any particular program.

Let me now turn to the expansion of the cafeteria at Darien High School. This project grew out of a need to address a very noisy and crowded situation, the result of separate cafeteria seating being lost when it was repurposed for classroom space, as well as poor design and value-engineering at the time the high school was built, a long-standing pathology in Darien that I will continue to fight.

I won't rehash the debate over this project, other than to state where I think we are now: the proposal recommended by the Board of Education solves the capacity and noise problem for a bit less than \$1.7 million. It was thoughtfully developed and argued at extreme length. It has significant parent support. It also meets an objective I've stated many times, which is that capital projects should be done once and done right.

The alternative proposal was developed with good intentions, which I applaud. Jay Hardison spoke with me at length about it, describing with considerable energy his rationale and the potential for \$1 million in savings. In the end, however, the Board of Education decided against it because they believed it did not meet their objectives. In addition, because of some confusion and miscommunication, it turned out that the potential savings were closer to \$200,000, not \$1 million, which made it far less compelling. And last week, the alternative failed win majority support in the Education Committee.

I agree that the process leading to this point was painful and disjointed. I will do all I can to help ensure a more constructive process for future projects. But we have given this project a fair hearing, with ample input from all parties. I believe the Board of Education's proposal is the right way to go, and that it merits your vote of support.

Finally, a few comments about Hartford. We are all aware of the financial difficulty, and we have heard Hartford's widely varying proposals to deal with it. Earlier plans included elimination of special education cost reimbursement and the imposition of teacher pension costs, the impact of which would have been north of \$6 million. More recent proposals rejected these ideas, but at the moment, we still have no clarity about what to expect from Hartford. Your appropriation vote tonight will have to be made under this uncertainty.

I think you can support the proposed budget comfortably, however, as we are well-positioned to deal with whatever Hartford decides. There are several reasons:

First, our fund balance is healthy and ready to help us. As a reminder, the General Fund fund balance is essentially the Town's financial reserve. Credit ratings agencies look at this balance as a percent of town revenue in determining a municipal credit rating. This balance will be approximately 11% of revenue by June 30th, which is within the range of their expectations for our AAA rating. To supplement fund balance in the coming fiscal year, I plan to ask that we bond for the cafeteria project, assuming you approve it. This means that most of the \$1.7 million appropriated will instead go to fund balance. The bottom line is that with the budget before you, my sense is that we probably have more than \$2 million available next year to fund any charges imposed by Hartford.

Of course, Hartford could require something more than that, and recent news about income tax shortfalls suggests that this may be possible. While I don't expect anything significant for the upcoming fiscal year given how late we are in the process, the Board of Finance does have the ability to levy a supplemental tax assessment if needed. We will do everything possible to avoid this imposition, but one benefit if we do is that it will help focus the minds of our taxpayers on Hartford's problems. I've found that such attention can be a valuable catalyst for change.

Longer term, we have another asset. Annual debt service now stands at about \$11.5 million, but starting in 2018, it will be \$1 million lower, and in another four years, \$5 million lower, which will be a good source of taxpayer protection to offset whatever might come out of Hartford.

Which brings me to a recommendation I have made to several of you. I know many are concerned about Hartford, and well you should be. Some of you have suggested that we need to cut the budget now as an anticipatory measure. I would strongly counsel against this. Doing so in a small way creates animosity and doesn't really help taxpayers. Doing so in a meaningful way will require major changes, maybe even firing people, all at the last minute. In my view, it will be better to instead begin developing guidance for next year's

budget. You may decide to specify a flat budget, or even a reduction, which is OK. But by doing so this summer and fall, when Hartford's intentions are likely to grow more clear, the Town and Board of Education will have time to implement your guidance responsibly. In addition, we'll have an election in November to ensure that whatever guidance is developed is aligned with voter expectations. I will be happy to support any effort in this regard – and I do have my own point of view on this, which I'm happy to share.

I would like to close with some thoughts about town governance. Every year, our annual budget moves through a particular sequence, with each party playing a discrete role. First, the professionals who run these functions – the Town Administrator and the Superintendent – develop draft budgets. Then, two Boards with direct oversight of these budgets, and with members elected at large, review and make detailed changes. Their approved budgets then go to the Board of Finance, whose responsibility is correct mistakes, incorporate any new information, make sure the budgets are reasonable and prudent, and decide the right mix of taxation and bonding to fund them. The final step is the RTM's review and appropriation vote.

A key theme of these review responsibilities is that Boards with direct oversight focus on the details, while the Board of Finance and RTM test the budgets at an overall level. An important feature of this structure is that it's efficient and minimizes redundancy, something that has been diminished recently.

As you think about your own interest in budgets, I would urge you to take the sequence I described into account. If you find yourself more interested in influencing the details, I would urge you to run for the Board of Selectmen or Board of Education, as that's where this kind of oversight properly resides.

That's all I have to say. Thank you for indulging me. I would be happy to take any questions.

JZ

C

Good evening, I am Dennis Maroney of district 3 and Chairman of the Education committee of the RTM. I would like to move 17-154, an appropriation in the general fund to the Education operating budget of 95, 874,776, may I have a second.

The recommended budget for 2017-2018 is the lowest increase in recent memory. In the last 5 years the lowest budget was 2.93% and an average of 4.42%. The proposed budget is a 4.5% increase over last years budget, but that number includes monies for the State of Connecticut proposed adjustments that may eliminate \$2.2 million of excess cost reimbursement. If that number would be removed from the proposed budget the actual increase would be 2.16%, the lowest amount in at least 5 years.

In analysis of since 2013-2014 which is the year before the Special Education crisis there have been 53.94 new hires – 75% or 40.41 positions are directly attributable ~~the~~ Special Ed – including teachers, nurses, para professionals and secretaries. This leaves 13.53 positions left in general Ed – 3 teachers, 2 athletic trainers, 2 curriculum, and 3.3 administrators. The remaining are nurses, para professionals and secretaries. The major driver for the increase of the Education budget is primarily special education along with personnel salary increases and Health and insurance.

This budget has a number of the new hires. In this budget are 7 new department chairs, an athletic trainer, and a new full time counselor at Darien High. Also in this budget are increases to the technology plan of \$624,575. This includes monies for new smartBoards, wireless upgrades, professional development and software subscriptions to support instruction. The district is in year 2 of a planned 4-year rollout plan and as such chromebooks for elementary and ipads for HS are slated to be purchased. This will expand the 1:1 initiative for grades 4-9 in 17-18.

The proposed budget also includes a plan to create an Alternative High School, Fitch Academy, located off campus at the Darien Library teen room for year one. 2 teachers, who will be relocated from both MSX and DHS, will staff Fitch Academy. This new alternative High School will address children who are having difficulty coping with the HS be it for medical or social reasons. This program is a pilot for this year, but hopefully this program will prosper and help kids who may be having difficulties in the larger school setting.

Darien continues to track below its district reference group in per pupil spending. Darien spends approximately \$363 less than NC, \$234 less than Weston, \$1425 less than Westport and \$300 less than the average in DRG average.

The committee had a difficult year this year even with the low % increase. There were basically 4 items that drew our attention during the budget cycle that I will highlight. The first was the additional counselor at the HS. The committee felt that this position is needed not only to help with the difficulty in the college process but

teenagers today face more emotional and social pressure with the influx of social media.

Another item that drew the focus of the Education committee was the alternative school. This plan was not shared until the night the proposed budget was voted on by the BOE. At that meeting the plan was to roll out the Fitch Academy as a pilot program for a small number of students. Dr Brenner has previously worked with 2 other alternative programs at previous districts and believes Darien would be very well served by having a similar program. At previous schools this entails the program not being on the HS campus to allow those who may have difficulty with the mass of the HS or commotion to learn at a different pace and/or structure. The committee ultimately felt the pilot program is a good idea, though we are guarded on the future costs of the program. Having said that if we can help children who would then be placed out of district it may end up being a cost savings program as well as a needed educational program as well. A win-win for all.

The technology plan also has concerns from the committee. There are concerns the amount is too much for the difficult times in the State. Also there are concerns with too much screen time with elementary students and questions of why iPad for DHS.

The final program that the committee wrestled with was the Department Head Chairs. There is one each for the major academic subjects – Math, English, Social Studies, World Language and Science and 2 for Special Education one each at MSX and DHS. The goal of the chairs is to stabilize the teaching across classes, so that students who take the same class with different teachers will have the same educational experience. These chairs will teach one class per year alternating between MSX and DHS and also will have supervisor responsibility to teachers in the discipline. So a science teacher will be evaluated by the science Chair, which hopefully will lead to a better evaluation and better ways to deliver content. Also the Chairs will help with the transition from Middle school to HS. The committee had a difficult time with adding 7 new additional heads. There was concern that this was a luxury that was not needed in this uncertain time by the State. Others felt that the Administration is trying to innovate by providing better and deeper instruction to teachers, which will lead to a better classroom experience for students. Many felt that 7 was too much and would be better to do a pilot program with one or two, but the administration did a fantastic job with the budget that the increase of the 7 new positions is only \$240K.

On 1 May 2017 the committee met to vote on the Educational operating budget. Present were Dr. Brenner, superintendent, Michael Harman, BOE chairman other members of the BOE and many parents. We discussed the topics I have gone over previously. There were 2 amendments to reduce the proposed budget but both failed. One motion was to reduce the operating budget by 390,000 with failed 4 in favor 10 opposed and one abstention. The second amendment was to reduce 200K which failed 8 opposed 5 in favor and 2 abstentions. The committee voted 11 in favor 3 opposed and one abstention to support the recommended budget to the

RTM and recommends the RTM do the same. Those in favor of the budget believe we need to continue to support the initiatives and trust the administration. They believe that the Board is trying innovative solutions to educate in financial prudent manner and provide a richer educational experience. Those opposed feel that with the financial difficulties in the State that this is not the year to try new initiatives.

This was not the best budget year. The % increase is one of the lowest in recent memory as stated before, but there was a lot of animosity. We are normally in agreement with the Board, but this year whether due to the single day budget process or our questions and sense of the meeting vote in January where we were unanimously opposed the 3 new initiatives, this was a very trying year. We plan on discussing how to work better with the Board in the future. We would like to thank Dr Brenner and the administration and the members of the Board of Education as well as members of CDSP for working with us this budget cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Maroney

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report
Item B – The Education Operating Budget**

I am Jack Davis, District 3, Chair of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee

Thank you Mr. Maroney and the Education Committee for a very thorough report on the Board of Education budget. I will try to repeat as little as possible.

As there are new RTM members as well as reminding existing members, I wanted to remind everyone about the uniqueness of the BOE operating budget. In the state of CT, BOE are elected by the local citizenry and their operating expenses funded by local tax dollars but their authority comes from the State. As such, the BOF and RTM do not have line item veto as we do with BOS and BOE capital and the BOS operating budget. We approve an aggregate amount for expenditures – the line items that both RTM Education and F&B committees reviewed are placeholders. An extreme situation to show as an example is:

- If in the budget the BOE has purchase of football uniforms for \$1000
- And you don't like that the Blue Wave has black uniforms
- You could propose a \$1000 cut trying to stop the purchase of black uniforms
- But even if the cut passes, the BOE could still buy black uniforms and reduce another part of the budget by \$1000 – they are not beholden to the rationale of any proposed reduction
- We simply do not have line item veto

This gets into the purview of the BOF and RTM. We approve an aggregate budget, it's not our purview to determine the minutia, we can discuss, influence, cajole, disagree or agree during the budget discussions but at the end of the day it is up to our elected BOE members to determine how that aggregate amount is distributed within the goals that they, the BOE, establishes every August/September.

A bit of background prior to getting into the discussion of the actual budget. There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the growth in the aggregate total BOE budget within the F&B committee. A frequent question is "what are the drivers of the increase?" – Especially as the total school population appears to be level or showing only minor increases.

An analysis of the 5 year CAGR for the various components of our budget indicated the following:

- The BOS specific operating budget has grown by 1.88%
- The Library operating budget has grown by 2.02%
- The BOE operating budget has grown by 3.25%
- But if you look within the BOE budget – the main budget without SPED has grown only 1.99% - consistent with the BOS and close to the 5 year inflation rate of 1.61%

So what is driving the SPED budget? You heard in Dennis' Education committee report that since the year before the SPED crisis – of the 53.9 new FTE's 70% are directly attributable to SPED – including teachers, nurses and paras. A further analysis shows significant growth in Out of district placement – as our district did not have in-house capacity to meet the needs of students. These CARG over 5 years are stark:

- Fully loaded SPED 5 year CAGR is 7.03%
- OOD tuition 5 year CAGR is 11.6% (from 4.0mm to 6.3mm)
- OOD tuition with OOD transportation CAGR is 11.4% (\$4.6mm to \$7.1mm)
- The ten year CAGR for OOD tuition is a whopping 34% (from \$450m to 6.3mm)
- The total cost for OOD and OOD transportation represents 7.3% of the BOE's total operating budget – and we are out of whack when compared to OOD expense and number of students outplaced in comparison to our peer communities

These are the costs that are driving the BOE budget increases. Having been involved with the BOE budgets and specifically understanding the related costs associated with SPED – it is important to know that there is no statistical or empirical data that shows a correlation between the growth in the district's total student population and the number of SPED students. And more importantly, there is no correlation between the total student body and the mix of SPED students' needs. That is similar to the growth in total student population has no correlation to the number of bright or athletic students or students with blond hair with blue eyes – it is driven by other factors not growth in student population.

The drivers of BOE budget growth is important to understand. It is the underlying basis for two of the more discussed initiatives in this budget – the Fitch Academy and the department chairs. Both were created to address building in house capacity; delivering services and reducing future costs as well as improving the overall quality of education. And we can't keep asking for the BOE to make financial changes but require them to stay a rigid non-innovative course – you can't have it both ways. Life and business doesn't work that way.

One other thing about the SPED cost center expenses. Not all expenses are attributable to SPED students. Mainstream students use the services of social workers, school psychologists and other services. There is another classification as well – 504 students that aren't considered SPED. Those students also access paras, social workers, school psychologists or may receive homebound tutoring or a slew of other services included in the SPED cost center.

The Fitch Academy is not a new educational concept – it may be for Darien – but it has been successfully implemented in many highly regarded Long Island and Westchester schools for some time. It has also been implemented within our own state. Dr. Brenner has been associated with two successful programs – one as an administrator and the other as superintendent. There is a difficult concept with the Fitch Academy – it's not SPED but it can have a direct impact on future SPED costs. It is a volunteer participation; it addresses a specific need identified as having sufficient critical mass within the district to address; and it is a pilot program that can be unwound if necessary. Have all the I's been dotted and the t's crossed – no. Would the BOE, BOF and RTM Education and F&B committee members like a bit more long term financial detail – yes. But it will be ready for prime time come September. And the long term financials will follow. Let me add one more thing. The cost of this pilot is \$24m – if just one Darien student doesn't need to be outplaced because the Fitch Academy exists, because there is a place for that student to land – the ROI is a whopping 300-400% of the pilot's cost.

The department chairs that was discussed by the Education committee is the next biggest area of discussion. No one is happy with adding 7 new administrators but the net addition is only 3.3 due to reorganization and elimination of other administrative positions. The total cost is approximately \$300m as there are reductions in curriculum positions and stipends, and they will all teach one class a semester and other associated costs. This is cost deferral, a middle management issue and a quality of education initiative. The current system of peer department heads does not work – it is not currently accepted best practices in education. And it needs to be done and has needed to be done for some time. There are changes in our education system – some of our teachers are resistant to change because of consistency and continuity between curriculum and testing within a grade or subject matter; implementation of the new one to one technology tool or simply compiling with IEPs and ensuring what has been promised to the student is actually being implemented. And this latter one has the capacity to create financial havoc if IEPs are not compiled with. The department chairs address these issues with the authority to take corrective actions. Simply put, it ensures continuity and a consistent quality education for

all students and facilities our students smooth transition from grade to grade and from MMS to DHS regardless of which teacher a student had prior to their next level. *At a BOF meeting Dr Brenner + Michael Harman, BOE chair, have promised to review this initiative with metrics over for each of the next few years.*

As for the overall budget, the budget is \$95.9mm up \$2.0mm or 2.16% from last year. Not only is the increase in terms of percentage smaller than in prior years but the total dollar increase is smaller as well. This is the lowest budget increase in at least 15 years and it is being accomplished with the 3% teacher salary contract increase approved by the RTM earlier this year.

There are risks in this budget. The budget assumes a continuation of the safety net reimbursement to towns by the state referred to as Excess Cost Reimbursement. That has been under attack as Hartford continues to look to cut all educational payments to financially well managed communities. Hartford seems to believe that there is a correlation between wealthy communities and their lack of SPED students. In the current budget includes reimbursement of approximately \$2.3mm. The BOF is aware of this risk as are the RTM committees.

At our meeting on Monday, April 23rd, with 13 of 15 members present, the F&B Committee voted to approve the Education Operating budget with 10 in favor; none opposed and three abstentions.

The abstentions representing a minority opinion were related to:

- The growth in the overall BOE operating budget with little or no growth in total student population
- The lack of a fully defined Fitch Academy without long term financials
- The poor communication by the BOE during this budget cycle
- And lastly, as one member stated, they were not in favor of adding 7 administrators but had difficulty voting against the budget as it was only a 2.16% increase

**** Return Floor to Moderator ****

2017-2018 BoE Recommended Budget

Town Hall Auditorium,
May 8th, 2017

Good Evening,

Mister Moderator, members of the RTM, elected officials and the town of Darien. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Board of Education Recommended Budget for 2017-2018. Thank you to the RTM Education and F&B committees for sharing your perspective and to everyone for your efforts and your commitment to our children. Tonight, I'd like to provide a high-level overview of the Board of Education's 2017-2018 recommended budget of \$95,855,777. As background, the Board of Education and this RTM voted to ratify the new teacher's contract which included a 3.4% increase. Even with that increase, the administration and the BoE were able to capture efficiencies, create new programs affecting all learners, and lay the ground work for future innovations and savings all within a 2.16% budget--- the lowest increase in more than a decade.

OUR
PARENTS
TEACHERS
ADMINISTRATORS
IN ATTENDANCE

The Board of Education's Capital Projects request is \$3,254,653. As you are aware, unlike the Operating Budget, the RTM has line-item authority on these 24 projects. Discussion at committee meetings generated the most questions concerning the cafeteria project so please allow me to provide some detail to your full body. The Cafeteria expansion proposal was deferred by the Board of Finance from our 2016-2017 Capital Budget with the charge that we ensure that the project not be "value engineered." In the Fall of 2016 we engaged an architectural firm and reviewed multiple options. The option presented to you tonight meets the core needs of increasing capacity, designing a hospitable environment—which includes necessary acoustical upgrades and optimal seating for an educational environment, and creating flexibility for alternative use. The final approved concept presented tonight represents the best solution from an educational *and* financial standpoint. This project is scheduled for completion by the start of the 2018 school year. Approval of this

project is critical to accommodate the large class arriving that Fall while also providing capacity for the projected future enrollment projections.

With our children as our first priority and financial prudence our guiding principle, I request that you continue to support this investment in the future of our community by supporting the Darien Board of Education 2017- 2108 Budget.

Michael A. Harman
Chairman, Darien Board of Education

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report
Item ~~B~~^A – Capital Budget**

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

I move "Section B" of RTM Resolution (17-15) Appropriation in the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures.

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

In the past capital was discussed as part of the BOS operating budget and again in the Other Appropriations for Funds. Technically all of the individual projects approved reside in this Fund's appropriations and the BOS capital line item is a mere transfer to this Fund. We will see how it goes.

The total appropriation for capital and non-recurring items for the current budget is \$6,710,656. On a quick blush, it appears to have a year to year increase of \$1,530,429 or 23%. However, included in this year's budget are four projects that were deferred last year the TH generator for \$260m in the BOS capital budget and the DHS cafeteria (\$1.7mm), the DHS storage shed (\$250m) and replace of a truck, which by next year would qualify for antique plates (about \$50m). Those initiative total \$2.26mm dollars – which means new capital projects for the current year is less than what was originally proposed during last budget cycle.

The rationale for moving forward on these project this year is that both BOS and BOE operating budgets are lower resulting allowing the Town to move forward with a reasonable tax rate and still make infrastructure investments.

The proposed capital from the BOS is \$3.456mm – increasing \$292m or 9.2% from the prior year. Again, that increase includes the deferred TH generator for \$260m – significantly reducing the increase had it been moved forward last year.

Within the BOS capital request is the funding of several key reserve accounts – examples being \$200m for the total cost of the 5 year revaluation services; \$475m for FC apparatus replacements (we do not bond for replacing our fire engines); \$185m for replacement of PW equipment, \$210m for dredging sedimentation basins and \$885m for repaving of our roads. The repaving is a capital expense that will not be bonded and done on an annual basis.

Within the F&B committee, there was a discussion regarding the TH generator but the committee, as a whole, strongly believed this was necessary.

The next part of the capital is the BOE capital improvements. The amount is \$3.255mm or a \$1,238mm increase or 61%. Again over \$2.0mm of requested increase included in the budget request was deferred last year – meaning the current years request for new capital projects is effectively down \$762m or 38% from the prior year's amount. Key project discussed were the DHS cafeteria and the DHS storage shed. Also included in these capital projects are replacement of oil burners with natural gas at DHS and MMS totaling \$250m – that will yield significant future cost savings, backflow preventors on water service at several schools for about \$130m, resurfacing MMS (135m) and repairing the oval track at DHS (100m).

Last year the BOF requested the BOE provide greater information on the cafeteria expansion. With the bubble classes currently in 7th and 8th grade, the potential for additional HS students due to the three developments and the prior conversion of the cafeteria annex several years ago to classrooms. The current sitting for students does not meet the number of students having lunch, which varies within the 4 shifts. The acoustics in the cafeteria is terrible – about the same as attending a NASCAR race. Within the F&B committee, all agreed that there is a need for additional seating and a need to fix the acoustics. The BOE reviewed various options and decided that the option that best met their needs was to expand the existing cafeteria. The guidelines from the BOF were straight forward – if you do propose a fix to the cafeteria – do it right, there was no appetite for the BOE to come back later requesting additional funding or fixes. Most within the F&B committee agreed with the plan selected and presented at numerous BOE Facilities sub-committee meetings and at the BOE meetings. A member of the Education committee has proposed the elimination of the elevated tiers suggesting that it might reduce the total cost by \$700m to \$1mm based upon the cost of removing tiers at \$450m as presented in a BOE document. There was discussion by a F&B member that the \$450m was not the total cost.

At our meeting on April 23, 2017 with 13 of 15 members present, the RTM F&B committee voted 10 in favor, none opposed, and 3 abstentions to approve the full capital proposed for both the BOS and BOE and recommend the same to the full RTM. No motions were made to cut any capital.

The three abstentions represent a minority opinion and their rationale for abstaining was:

- While they like other capital projects there was concern on the cafeteria
- While the cafeteria needs acoustics, better seat design might solve the problem

An additional note, subsequent to the RTM F&B vote, the original architect document surfaced that was discussed at previous BOE Facilities sub-committee meetings however never posted to the BOE website. That document (option A1) showed that the option to remove the tiers was \$450m but it was only part of the full project – other costs such as floor replacement, fixing loose connections, contingencies brought the full project cost to about \$1.5mm – resulting in a savings of not \$700m to \$1mm but only \$150m. The lapse of not bringing this document forward sooner created some angst – to say the least.

Good evening.

My name is *Mark Adiletta* and I am Chair of the Public Works Sub-Committee to the RTM.

At a Regular Session of the PWC held May 1st, with 8 of 11 members present, the PWC considered and voted “unanimously” to recommend approval to the full RTM of the Public Works Capital Expenditures and Public Works section of the Selectman’s Operating Budget.

Background:

The PWC first reviewed and discussed this budget in detail with PW Director Ed Gentile at the PWC regular meeting February 22nd. The Budget was discussed and again at two subsequent meetings including last Monday night. From a macro perspective this budget reflects no change on PTEs or FTEs, a negligible change in operating expenses (below that of the broader BOS Budget and the BOE Budget). This budget is accomplished while the PWD continues to make meaningful and measurable improvements to the service provided to the Town at the same time implementing sustainable operating efficiencies.

Here are some of the details:

The 34% reduction in the “electricity” line item is largely related to the deployment of LED street lights, pursued and implemented by the DPW early this year. Many residents have noted these new fixtures also provide a better quality light. It was cited by the PWC this is a great example of a Town department pursuing a program to improve service and save taxpayer \$ at the same time.

The Street Light Maintenance line item, though small, is up, and relates to the maintenance contract on the new LED fixtures.

The new pumps at the sewer pump stations, phased in over the past few years by the DPW, are operating very well. They are using less electricity and requiring far less maintenance man-hours related to clogging.

The increase in Motor Fuel reflects higher fuel price assumption for the town-wide fleet plus the addition of the EMS vehicles to this line item.

Good evening I am Dennis Maroney of district 3 and chairman of the Education committee.

On Monday 1 May 2017 the Education committee met and voted on the 3,254,653 that is part of the capital budget pertaining to the schools. The larger capital items are replacing 2 older trucks with an estimate of 48.5K for each, Updates to Royle school such upgrading the fire panel, digital heating controls, and replacing the boiler room sump pump totaling \$226,302. At Ox Ridge a backflow preventer is needed at a cost of \$43,974. Holmes is requesting to replace doors from the 1933 original building and swapping fixed windows on the second floor for ones that can provide ventilation at a cost of 36k for both. Hindley has window replacements and a backflow preventer at a cost of 312,029. Middlesex has repairs to the parking lot, a backflow water preventer, new gas burner, and fix floor expansion joints. – total estimated cost is 259,989. At Darien High school there are a few projects – asphalt repair for 65k, replace oil burners with natural gas for 160k, a storage facility for athletic equipment for 250k, repair the track for 100k and expand the cafeteria for 1.689,359.

The committee has had difficulty with the cafeteria since it was proposed last year. This could be the major reason for the difficulties with this budget cycle. It seems that every meeting we were given a new piece of information. For 4 months many were under the impression that to remove the current tiers was a cost of 550K as that was presented on a slide in December by the BOE and not corrected until the end of April. At our last meeting, it was stated this project would not begin in 2017 but rather in the summer of 2018. At the tour of the schools on 18 March, we were having conversations saying it would be good to resurface the track and install the new storage facility at the same time of the expansion of the cafeteria and now that has changed.

There are some on the committee who feel a restructure of the current footprint could alleviate the problem for a fraction of the cost. There are others who believe the cost is too steep for the additional seats. There was a motion made Monday 1 May to reduce the capital projects by 1.4 MM which was defeated 8 votes to 7. The majority of the committee believes the proposal put forth by the Board of Education answers the problem with overcrowding and will help with potential future enrollments. The committee voted to approve the \$3,254,653 by a vote Of 8 in favor and 7 opposed and recommends the RTM do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Maroney

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report
Item ~~C~~^B – The Town's Operating Budget**

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

I move "Section ^BC" of RTM Resolution (17-15) Authorizing and Approving Appropriations in the General Fund for the Selectmen's Operating Budget.

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

The Town's Operating Budget is \$49.4mm, up 5.73% compared to the prior year's budget of \$46.7MM.

By way of background, this portion of the budget is comprised of four primary parts:

1. Town Services
2. The Library's operating budget
3. Debt Service
4. And the transfer of funds to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures

It is also important to note that this part of the budget is the appropriations for expenditures. Associated revenues is addressed in section ___ as an offset in calculating the mill rate. I will address certain aspects of revenue in this section.

1. Town Services – Includes public safety, human services, parks & recreation, public works and general government. This is the portion of the budget that the Board of Selectman and the town administrator are responsible for managing. This portion of the budget is \$27.7mm, up only \$750m (or 2.78%) from last year's total of \$26.9MM. It is best to describe this year's budget as building capacity for next year. The largest single increase was in Protective & Emergency Services for \$298m with three initiatives accounting for most of that change offset by a decrease of \$114.6M in police patrol. The three initiatives, which also add additional staff are:

- Two FTEs for civilian dispatch resulting in an increase in Police communications of \$108M

- Two part-time employees to be hired in a staggered fashion for Building control to address the demands on that function relating to the three planned developments resulting in a \$41M increase
- Two part-time employees for the Fire Marshall to be hired in a staggered mode to address the increased inspections relating to the three planned developments resulting in a \$52M increase

The last two initiatives – hiring 4 part time employees – is offset by significant increases in building revenues of \$746M and fire inspections of \$123M. The increased revenue associated with fire inspections is expected to continue in future years. Both of these revenues are contingent upon the approval of the projects by the P&Z Commission; the start dates of shovels in the ground and the completion of the various parts of each individual development. In fact, when considering revenue as part of the overall BOS operating budget sans the Library, the actual net increase is only \$170m or 0.63%.

The increase of two civilian dispatch received considerable discussion at the BOS, BOF and RTM F&B committee. This hiring will build capacity to better serve our town during the peak hours during the day. It will provide better utilization of our trained officers currently providing dispatch services – at a lower cost. It was discussed and agreed at the BOS, BOF and RTM F&B committees that significant further metrics and rationale would be required prior to any incremental civilian dispatch staffing.

Two other areas should be noted. As technology impact each of us, technology has had an ever increasing impact on the management and operations of our town. The RTM F&B committee would like an overarching strategy to be developed to address our Town's current and future technology needs. Initial steps by the Town Administrator has occurred during the budget cycle. More has to be done and we look forward to working collaboratively with the Town Administrator, BOS and BOF in this area. The other area is Town revenue. Again the Town Administrator is working with department heads on revenue and the RTM F&B committee looks forward to working collaboratively with the Boards to move this along prior to next year's budgets.

2. Library Operating Budget - The Library, although privately owned, has its operating budget paid by the Town. The Library is responsible through fundraising for purchase of books, technology and capital improvements. The Library's proposed budget is \$3.685mm, up \$102m (or 2.84%) from last year. The drivers of this increase are:

- Raises to employee salaries to bring in line with market rates resulted in increases is \$97M or 4.2%
- Prior year salary increases were partially offset by reductions in pension funding that was not available this year

3. Debt Service – Terms, conditions and length of any debt issuance is the purview of the Board of Finance. Only the Town can issue debt – neither the BOE nor Sewer Authority can issue debt. As such, the total debt has components of Town debt, BOE debt and Sewer debt all of which is attributable to capital current and past projects. Total repayment of debt in the proposed budget is \$11.738MM up \$193M or 1.67% from the prior year. Specific to the component parts – Town debt service is \$3.726M up \$668M or 21.85% from the prior year. BOE debt service is \$7.194MM down \$490M or down 6.37% from the prior year. Sewer debt service is \$818M up \$14M or 1.77% from the prior year.

The current debt service allocation is 61% for Board of Education projects, 32% for Town projects and 7% for Sewer projects (which is paid specifically by user fees).

As of July 1, 2017, the Town will have approximately [\$62.212mm] of outstanding debt, down from [\$71.8mm] the prior year. Based on our current debt amortization schedules, we expect to repay approximately \$9.645mm of debt in the coming year. Within this budget, there is no issuance of new debt. That being said, as previously mentioned, a bonding resolution has been approved by the RTM for the purchase of the Ox Ridge Hunt Club property and in June the RTM will be reviewing the Public Works garage for which a bonding resolution is anticipated. (Note – anticipated 11.440mm summer debt issuance for ORHC and part of PW garage.) Barring any significant new capital projects, our Town's current debt amortization schedule expects significant decreases in our Town's total debt over the next few years.

4. Capital Projects –

The capital projects amount is a transfer to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures less Grants received from the State associated with capital. This amount was previously voted on by the RTM. Total capital is \$6,710,656 less Other RFCNRE of \$391,590. The Other RFCNRE is down 21% from the prior year's total of \$497,422. The RFCNRE primarily consists of State grants for local road resurfacing.

In summary the Town's Operating Budget is as follows:

Total - \$49.4mm, up 5.73%

Town Services & Public Safety - \$27.7mm, up 2.78%
Library operating budget – \$3.7mm up 2.84
Debt Service (including Town and Education) - \$11.7mm, up 1.67%
Capital Projects (including Town and Education) - \$6.3mm, up 34.94%

At our meeting on Monday, April 23rd, 2017 with 12 of 15 members present, the F&B Committee 12 in favor with no opposed and no abstentions to approve the Selectman's budget and recommend the same to the full RTM.

****** Return Floor to Moderator ******

The Public Health & Safety Committee met on May 8, 2017, with 11 of 13 members present to discuss and report to the Full RTM on Resolution 17-15, the fiscal 2018 Town of Darien Budget, as it relates to Police, Fire, Disaster Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services (pages 83-153), and Human Services (pages 172-201).

The Chairman relayed information obtained from Marc McEwan, Assistant Fire Marshall and Emergency Preparedness Director.

Mr. McEwan noted an increase in software expense reflected a full 12 month cycle vs a mid-year start up last year, along with increased radio replacement and back-up power supply costs. Heating fuel costs have decreased. A capital request was made to replace the Mask Fit Testing Machine due to its age, which was originally purchased with a Department of Homeland Security grant. As for Fire Protection, the Fire Marshall budget reflects the addition of ^{2 Post} ~~one~~ Full Time Fire Inspector Positions. This is due to the projected town developments with increased living and retail space requiring inspections during construction as well as in the future. Revenue is anticipated to increase from \$7500 to \$130,000. The three volunteer Fire Departments have even budgets with increases due to portable radio replacement, increased training costs, and the inclusion of snow removal as a maintenance expense.

The Chairman relayed information obtained from Ray Osborne, Chief of Police.

The police budget is has an overall increase of 1.1%, down from last year's 4% increase. The Civilian Dispatch program takes Patrol Officers from the Communications Center to be utilized elsewhere, such as a Resource Officer at Middlesex Middle School. Overtime savings is expected to be about \$115,000. Records Department increase is \$39,000, which includes the addition of body cams.

The Emergency Medical Services (Post 53) budget is increased by \$32,000, 29%, due to the Paramedic Contract approved in Fall 2016. It is noteworthy that the staffing is all-volunteer and much of the operation self-funded through donations.

The Human Services budget, which includes the Senior Center, Senior Transportation, Youth Services and the Public Health Department has an increase of \$7900 or .6% with a budget of \$1,413,000. Potential state and federal cuts to essential programs may affect future budgets. The Public Health budget of \$233,000 receives revenues of \$123,000 from Licenses and Permits.

The Public Health & Safety Committee voted to ___ recommend support of these aspects of the Town Budget Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, James M. Patrick, Chairman

May 8, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

WARNING 17-15

2017-2018 DARIEN TOWN BUDGET

Good evening.

Adele Conniff, District 3, RTM Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman

The RTM Parks & Recreation Committee met on May 1, 2017 with 12 of 15 members present, constituting a quorum. The Committee voted unanimously to support the Parks & Recreation portion of the 2017-2018 Town of Darien Budget recommended by the Board of Finance.

The Parks & Recreation Operating Budget is \$1,395,334. This budget is slightly lower than the 2016-2017 Operating Budget. Last year a full time Recreation Supervisor was added to the department. This position will be important to the department, assisting with growing existing programs as well as introducing new programs and community events. Introducing new programming will address needs of town residents while increasing revenues to offset expenses.

The Town of Darien purchase of the Ox Ridge Hunt Club property this year adds \$17,200 in maintenance expenses to the Operating Budget and \$11,000 in Capital expenses.

The Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures 2017-2018 for the Parks & Recreation Department is \$92,800. This request includes money for LED lights and additional heaters for the Weed Beach paddle courts, a new security gatehouse at Pear Tree Beach, hand dryers in park facilities, a work equipment reserve, tree replacement, and field maintenance equipment.

Funds originally designated for the basketball court replacement at Cherry Lawn in the 2016-2017 budget will be used along with allocated funds to fund the Parks & Recreation Master Parks Plan planning process. A basketball court is expected to be included in the Plan. The Master Parks Plan is scheduled to be finished in October 2017.

The Revenues for the Parks & Recreation Department in the 2017-2018 budget are expected to be over \$500,000.

It has been a pleasure to work with Pam Gery, the Director of the Parks & Recreation Department and Mary Flynn, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. We thank you for keeping our committee well informed during the budget process.

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report**

Item D – Total budget

Voice vote, no report

Item E – Appropriations for Transfer of Funds

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

I move "Section E" of RTM Resolution (17-15) Authorizing and Approving the Appropriations of Transfer of Funds. Is there a second?

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

This item includes 5 different appropriations from different funds. All of the appropriations are "self-funding" which means the fund that collects the revenues, user fees or taxes automatically feeds the expenses for the services which it provides. The Sewer funds excluding the Sewer capital funds reimburse the Town for Sewer related town debt.

At our meeting on Monday, April 23rd, 2017, the F&B Committee voted 13 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions to approve all of the appropriations and recommend the same to the full RTM.

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report**

Item F – Mill Rate

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

I move "Section F" of RTM Resolution (17-15) Authorizing and Approving the Mill Rate.

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

This item sets the mill rate that is used for collecting taxes during the coming fiscal year. Assuming no changes to the proposed budget, the mill rate will be 16.16 based on the \$8.513 billion Grand List and a 98.9% tax collection assumption. The current adjusted grand list is 0.79% higher than the prior year's Grand List of \$8.313 billion. (Current adjusted grand list is \$8.379bn)

As a reminder, the mill rate is the result of dividing the adopted budget, less non-property tax revenues, less contributions from cash reserves by the assumed grand list, reduced by certain abatements (that represent state and local tax relief adjusting the grand list by \$40,139M) and then adjusted for the expected collection rate of 98.9%. That number is then multiplied by 1,000.

The numerator is \$145.3mm budget less \$9.9mm of non-property tax revenues including state grants and drawn down of fund balances leaving \$135.4mm of property taxes that the town will collect.

The denominator is the \$8.513bn grand list, less tax abatements for a net grand list of \$8.472bn. This is then multiplied by 98.9% to adjust for the assumed collection rate which produced an adjusted grand list of \$8.379bn.

Divide \$135.4mm by \$8.379bn and then multiply by 1,000 and you have the 16.16 proposed mill rate.

At our meeting on Monday, April 23rd, 2017, the F&B Committee voted to approve the mill rate that would be necessary to fund the budget and recommend the same to the full RTM. The votes were 10 in favor, none opposed and 3 abstentions. The abstentions were predicated on prior abstentions on the component parts of the budget.

**(17-15) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
JULY, 1 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 BUDGET
RTM Finance & Budget Committee Report**

G

Item ~~K~~ – \$5mm Borrowing Resolution

(Added during meeting - After this long evening, I am still) Jack Davis, District 3, Chairman of the RTM Finance and Budget Committee.

I move Section G of the RTM Resolution 17-15 Authorizing and Approving \$5mm of borrowing. Is there a second?

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

This authority is part of each annual budget Resolution. It authorizes the Town to make short term borrowings up to \$5mm without the need of RTM approval. This allows the Town to fund the budget in the event that there is a timing difference between tax collections and expenditures. Although the Town has not needed to utilize this authority in recent history, it gives them the necessary flexibility.

The Committee met on April 23, 2017 with 12 of 15 members present the committee voted 11 in favor, none against and 1 abstention to recommend the full RTM approve this motion. The one abstention was due to a member's company's requirement that that member not vote on any Town debt related motions.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Davis
Chair, Finance & Budget Committee
May 9, 2016

(17-16) RTM RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$30,000,000) TO REFUND CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S OUTSTANDING BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION

I am Jack Davis, District 3 and Chair of the RTM Finance and Budget Committee.

I move RTM Resolution (17-16) Appropriating Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) To Refund Certain of the Town's Outstanding Bonds and Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation. Is there a second?

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

This resolution gives the Board of Finance the ability to issue up to \$30 million to refinance certain of the Town's existing bond obligations without having to come before the RTM. The Resolution specifically stipulates that in order to issue the bonds the transaction must achieve "present value debt service savings for the Town".

The history behind this resolution was that a number of years ago there was an opportunity to refinance some of the town's debt and by the time a Special RTM meeting was convened, the window for favorable refinancing had closed.

The RTM has approved similar resolutions in each of the past years and the BOF has acted under the resolution to strategically take advantage of low interest rates to save the Town substantial interest charges.

It is important to note that this resolution does not impact the requirement for the RTM to approve any new issuances of debt to fund new capital projects and passage of this resolution rescinds "any authorized but unissued portions of previous refunding authorizations."

At its regular meeting on Monday, April 17th with 12 of 15 members present the F&B committee voted 11 in favor; none against; and one abstention to recommend that the full RTM approve this resolution. The one abstention was due to one member's company's requirement that does not allow that individual from voting on the issuance of any Town debt.

Jack Davis, Chair, Finance & Budget Committee
May 8, 2017