

RTM Finance & Budget Committee - Special meeting minutes 03//11/2014

Present: J. Davis, M. Banks, J. Boulton, R. Cardone, S. Anderson, G. DuPont, T. Duffy, J. Palen, D. Ritchie, B. Ball, A. Millar, and B. Hayes

Absent: A. Rycenga, K. Hoffman, and M. Thorne

Guests: Town Counsel - Wayne Fox. Karl Kilduff - Town Administrator, Kate Buch - Town Director of Finance, Nancy Markey - Town Director of Human Resources, RTM TGS&A committee members.

With 10 of 15 members present consisting of quorum Jim Palen called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Shortly after the start of the meeting two additional members arrived bring those in attendance to 12 of 15 committee members.

The purpose of the special meeting was a joint question and answer session with the RTM TGS&A Committee, town staff and advisors in regard to resolutions approving the stipulated agreements between the Town of Darien and vote on the unnumbered resolutions;

- a) The United Public Service Employees Union, Darien Board of Education Paraprofessionals Unit
- b) The United Public Service Employees Union, Darien Board of Education Secretaries Unit.

Nancy Markey gave an overview of the contract process and the resolutions before the committee. It was noted that 2 groups noted above had agreed to and voted to approve new contracts. Discussions were held on the pension cap provisions being added to the contracts and the need to amend the current town ordinance to allow these pension cap provisions. A future change in ordinance will be required to be amended by the RTM after the last of the bargaining units have approved new contracts with the last contract set to expire on 6/30/16. In 2017 the pension cap provisions go into effect. The RTM will need to make any necessary updates to the town ordinances with regard to the pension cap provisions prior to the provisions implementation, sometime after the last new contract is negotiated and before 2017.

Input from town counsel and the town administrator suggested that approving the resolutions today should not pose a liability to the town. The mechanics are sound and the ordinance changes can be addressed after 2016 when all of the affected bargaining units are scheduled to enter new contracts. This would allow the RTM to amend the ordinance once rather than each time a unit completes its contract negotiations by the year 2017.

It was noted that currently there is 1 employee falling under the new pension cap provisions in the 2 units which approved their new contracts. Other groups may have a higher number of employees affected by the pension cap provisions and have not yet completed or entered into new contract negotiations.

Should the RTM decide not take action on the contracts and pension cap provisions which have been approved by the negotiators and the unit members; they would automatically be binding to the town and the unit members. If the RTM were to reject the contracts they would be sent to arbitration with the final outcome determined by an arbitrator with a final and binding decision.

After the guests of the meeting left, the RTM F&B committee members continued discussions on the resolutions.

A motion was made to call to vote on the unnumbered RTM resolution to approve the stipulated agreements between the Town of Darien and; the United Public Service Employees Union, Darien Board of Education Paraprofessionals Unit by J. Davis and seconded by B. Ball. It was approved unanimously with all 12 committee members present in favor.

A motion was made to call to vote on the unnumbered RTM resolution to approve the stipulated agreements between the Town of Darien and; The United Public Service Employees Union, Darien Board of Education Secretaries Unit. by B. Hayes and seconded by M. Banks. It was approved unanimously with all 12 committee members present in favor.

A motion to call the meeting to an end was made by J. Davis and seconded by all at 7:24 p.m.