

Regularly Scheduled Meeting RTM - Finance & Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes 01-14-2016

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DARIEN CT.

Attendees:

F & B Committee members- J. Davis, B. Von Stuelpnagel, M. Hayes, R. Cardone, T. Duffy, M. Banks, D. Ritchie, and B. Hayes.

Absent- Howe, McIlmurray, Anderson, Morton, and Yarnell.

Guests:

Chief of Darien Police - Chief D. Lovello, Police Officer Mulcahy, Board of Finance Chairman - J. Zagrodsky. Board of Education Chairman- M. Harmon. RTM Moderator- S. Seelye. RTM member- L. Mosher, Vice Chair of PHS

With 8 of 13 committee members present consisting of quorum J. Davis called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

The first item discussed was resolution 16.1 acceptance of a gift up to \$65,000 worth of equipment associated with a new police boat from the Darien Foundation for Technology and Community.

The appropriation of \$285,000 to purchase a new police boat was previously approved by the RTM in resolution 15-10 on May 15, 2015. At the time of resolution 15-10, it was estimated the cost of a new police boat would be approximately \$335,500 with the sale of the current boat possibly being sold for an assumed amount of \$50,000 for a net purchase price of \$285,500 which was approved by the RTM. The original boat model chosen has been replaced and electronic features were added bringing the new purchase price to \$355,236. The Gift amount \$63,705 leaves the cost of the boat at \$291,531, a shortfall of \$6,031 from the previously approved \$285,500. The Police Commission has agreed to fund the difference from their false alarm fund.

Discussions were held regarding the desire of the Technology Foundation to receive a pro rated amount of the proceeds from selling the current police boat. How the mechanics of this reimbursement will occur will be discussed by the Board of Finance, Selectman, Police Department, Technology Foundation, and Town Administrators. It was understood the final cost of the boat would be within the originally approved \$285,000 and not require further funds being approved by the RTM. Also discussed were any additional cost of software and licensing the upgrades may cost the town. It was noted the costs were nominal, roughly \$45 a month for 5 months, total \$225. J. Davis thanked the Darien Foundation for Technology and Community for their generous gift.

A motion to approve resolution 16.1 was made by T. Duffy and seconded by R. Cardone. Resolution 16.1 was approved unanimously with all 8 F&B members present in favor.

The next item discussed was resolution 16.2 acceptance of a gift of \$25,000 to assist with costs associated with the Goodwives River Waterway - upper Pond project from the Friends of Gorham's Pond. J. Davis thanked the Friends of Gorham's Pond for their generous gift. A motion to approve resolution 16.2 was made by M. Banks and seconded by T. Duffy. Resolution 16.2 was approved unanimously with all 8 members present of the F & B Committee in favor.

The next item discussed was postponed resolution 15.22 Authorizing the Care, Custody, and Control of 35 Leroy to The Board of Education. Discussion took place regarding the state statue, the square footage, liability to the town, possible memorandums, heating systems, the final closing of the project, state grants outstanding (approx.

5%), and replacement of the roof. There was a question if the resolution was even necessary because the town would still own the property and transfer already occurred when the BOE occupied 35 Leroy in April 2014; upon approval of the capital appropriation during the last budget cycle on May 15, 2015 where the BOE and BOS agreed that the BOE would submit the final fix to the heating system in the BOE meeting room and the RTM approval of said heating system at the May 15, 2015 RTM budget meeting. In addition it was noted that CT State law authorizes the BOE to have jurisdiction of school facilities and according to CT State law, 35 Leroy is a school facility. It was suggested that the town do a similar memorandum for the other seven school facilities if this memorandum does in fact provide additional limited legal liability to the town.

A motion to approve resolution 15.22 was made by D. Ritchie and seconded by B. Hayes. Resolution 15.22 was approved with 7 members of the F & B committee present in favor: J. Davis, B. Von Stuelpnagel, M. Hayes, R. Cardone, T. Duffy, D. Ritchie, and B. Hayes. 1 Against: M. Banks.

An amendment to the 15.22 was proposed by J. Davis (Cardone seconded) requesting the resolution be consistent the actual square footage in question be correctly stated as 19,003 square feet 7 were in favor: J. Davis, M. Hayes B. Von Stuelpnagel, R. Cardone, T. Duffy, D. Ritchie, and B. Hayes. 1 against: M. Banks.

A sense of the meeting was taken requesting the resolution change the wording from Care, Custody, and control to read; Care, Maintenance, and Operation. 7 were in favor: J. Davis, M. Hayes B. Von Stuelpnagel, R. Cardone, T. Duffy, D. Ritchie, and B. Hayes; 0 against; 1 Abstention: M. Banks.

J. Davis proposed that a "buddy system" be used with committee member working with Board of Finance members to become specialists in certain areas of the budget. Some of the areas were Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Police, Public Health & Safety, Library, Planning and Zoning as well healthcare-insurance. This would streamline the process and make it more efficient.

The final discussion was a brief summary of the Board of Education budget presentations which were held 1-09-2016. Most agreed the new format of having day long meeting was a more efficient use of time rather than multiple meetings. The presentations were well received and the capital items now include a summary which the F& B committee had suggested. One capital item discussed was the new roof on 35 Leroy and that it may be an area to discuss as the process moves forward. All items are online for review. Upcoming meeting schedules were outlined.

A motion to adjourn was made by R. Cardone at 9:25 P.M.