

Approved Minutes
RTM-Finance and Budget Committee
Monday, March 13, 2017

PLACE:

Town Hall Auditorium
Meeting Starts: 7:35pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Davis, Lisa Yarnell, Rob Cardone, Martha Banks, Stacy Tie, James Howe, Taylor Carter, Brad Pattelli, David Martin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bert Von Stuelpnagel, Debra Ritchie, Matt Raben, Bill Smith,

OTHERS PRESENT:

The RTM Public Works and the RTM Public Health and Safety Committees were also present and had quorums attending. Ed Gentile, Darien's Director of Public Works also attended and presented.

CALL TO ORDER

Jack Davis called the meeting to order at 7:31pm with a quorum of 11 of 14 F& B members. Ed Gentile, Darien's Director of Public Works presented the first agenda item Resolution 17-8 to the committees. It had been previously presented during the BOS budget review of Public Works. Jack also asked that three people probably should move and three people second each of the motions given that all the committees were there together and such was done, Public Works motioned and seconded followed by Public Health and Safety, Lois XXX and Carolina McGoey and F&B, James Howe and Lisa Yarnell.

Ed Gentile began by asking everyone to stay off the roads on Tuesday as between 12 and 20 inches of snow was coming at 4" per hour for the next day. He then continued to the discussion of the resolution.

Discussion on Resolution 17-8- A Resolution to Appropriate \$160,000 for a Design Consultant To Develop The New Intersection Between Noroton Avenue & West Avenue In The Town Of Darien

- The Town of Darien has an opportunity to receive \$1.2MM in special appropriation funds from the CT Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). This comes via the Western CT Council of Government (COG). The Town is to handle the design aspect and the State will handle the construction. (Note, this is being expedited in order to show the COG we are serious and intend to use it.)
- There may be several intersections looked at including Ledge/Noroton and Heights/Norton, but the first one Ed has designated is for the improvement of the intersection at West /Noroton Avenue.
- A discussion ensued and a question was asked what if the final design indicates the cost of construction will be in excess of the \$1.2MM; it was agreed the additional amount could be covered by the grant, but Ed stated that it was most likely the Town of Darien's responsibility but that his job was to manage within that budget.
- If the Town needs to pay for an easement it could be paid for out of the \$1.2MM grant, and the construction costs could be value-engineered to include the easement costs.
- Public Works voted unanimously for the motion; Public Health and Safety also voted unanimously to move ahead, F& B voted 11 for and 0 opposed to approve this appropriation and recommend the same to the full RTM.

Discussion on Hecker Ave Resolutions 17-9, 17-10, 17-11, 17-12: Resolutions to Authorize the Acquisition of 1.2452 Acres of Land on Hecker Avenue and Authorize the Execution of Documents to Accept a State Grant for the Acquisition of Said Property and Resolutions for the Easements Associated to the State of CT and to the Town of Darien and for a \$137,500 gift from the Darien Land Trust

- Jack asked for a motion from Public Works (Jim Cameron moved and Tom Moore seconded it) and from the F&B Committee (Stacy Tie moved and Rob Cardone seconded it) so that the four resolutions could be brought to discussion and a consequently a vote together. It was so done.

Kate Buch presented the plans are to clear out any brush or invasive species plants. The Town has agreed to keep it as Open Space and not put any structures on the land and to keep it in its natural state to keep the flooding area from being commercialized. Re-plantings can be done if they are naturally in keeping with the current state.

- There are closing costs of \$2500 to \$3000 that will be coming from the Town's Land Fund Balance so they are no additional funds needed for closing.
- We will be voting on authorizing the Town acquisition of the 1.2452 acres of property for \$275,000 from Spring Grove Cemetery Association which will be paid for by a gift from the Darien Land Trust of \$137,500 and a grant from the State of Connecticut for \$137,500 (from their Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program). Then on accepting the state grant and then on the granting of the two easements.
- It will not be considered dedicated park land but will be managed by Parks and Rec.
- No line item added to the budget for maintaining it, it will be done within the current budget.
- It was recommended the Boy Scouts might want to take it on as a possible project.

Resolution 17-9 Authorizing the Purchase of Hecker Avenue property for \$275,000.

- A vote was taken and passed PW Committee unanimously to authorize the purchase and authorize the execution of documents to accept the Grant; F&B voted with 10 approving it and one abstention.

Resolution 17-11 Authorizing the Acceptance of the Gift from the Darien Land Trust of \$137,500

- Votes were taken by F&B and PW whether to accept the gift from the Darien Land Trust and both committees voted unanimously to accept them.

Resolution 17-10/ Resolution 17-12 Easements to the State and to the Darien Land Trust

- F&B agreed not to vote on these easement resolutions as they had no financial implications so it was not under the prevue of their committee, PW voted and approved both easement resolutions unanimously.

At 9:28 the joint session with PW adjourned and the F&B budget session began immediately there following with Michael Harmon, Chair of the Board of Ed joining the F&B committee meeting to take questions.

- A discussion ensued about the best way to protect the town from falling short given the total potential increases which might be necessary from having to compensated for a \$2.2MM ECR reversal from the State and potentially another \$4.5MM in pension funding that might not come down, again from the lack of State funds.
- A bifurcated approach was discussed with the only monies being voted on now was what was needed now and the excess money being set up as a reserve by the BOF to be taxed at a later time as a special tax depending on what happened in late Fall from the State.
- Discussions also ensued about the different cafeteria layout and expense options. Michael Harmon suggested all that could should attend the school tour the next Saturday to see in person the issue at hand at DHS cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT

James Howe moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Brad Pattelli. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa F. Yarnell, Clerk