

# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE RTM FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019

PLACE:  
DARIEN TOWN HALL  
ROOM 119 7:30 P.M.

1. **Call to Order:** Jack Davis, Chair, at 7:35 p.m.

## Committee MEMBERS Attendance:

	Martha Banks	Taylor Carter	Jack Davis	Mike Heitz	James Howe	Dave Martin	Iris Mix	Barry Baldwin
Present	X	X	X	X	X\	X	X	X
Absent								

	Peter Orphanos	Brad Pattelli	Tammy Sload	Bill Smith	Stacey Tie	Bert Von Stuelpnagel	Lisa Yarnell
Present	X		X	X	X	X	
Absent		X					X

13 Present and 2 Absent. Needed for Quorum: 8. Quorum attained.

2. **Other Attendees Present:** NONE

3. **Chairperson's Report:** Jack Davis reviewed a version of the anticipated Volpe Report and provided his current best sense as to the expected mill rate and interplay of the capital requests and bonding levels.

4. **Discussion:** points covered included:

A. Gaining a sense of the Committee as to FY 2019-2020 Budget items of significance. Matters covered included:

i) **Investment Income.** Bert von Stuelpnagel reported on his meetings with the Town Treasurer during the budget deliberations. The Committee consensus is that the BOF should review and satisfy itself that the budgeted FY20 investment income reasonably reflects anticipated income. Also discussed were investment "choices/policy" and benchmarking. The overall Committee opinion is that our Treasurer does a good job and the Committee only questions the FY20 budgeted income.

**ii) BOS/BOE FTE Additions**

**a) BOE Elementary School Psychologists**

The Committee without objection supports the addition of the four elementary school psychologists. There was a belief that the BOE, through multiple meetings, had supported with detail the rationale for these additions.

**b) Civilian Dispatchers/MMS SRO/Dedicated Narcotics Officer**

The Committee consensus is to support the additions of three civilian dispatchers along with the addition of an SRO at MMS and a dedicated narcotics officer. It was noted that there were no analytic documents presented to the BOS.

**c) Park & Rec Position**

The Committee consensus is that the Park & Rec Department has not provided any analytical data to support the addition of the requested FTE. Moreover, DM observed that an analysis would be instructive as to whether a seasonal employee or part time employee could complete specific work at a lesser cost. The Committee consensus was not to support the addition of this position without further analysis.

**iii) Capital Projects**

The Committee did not have an issue with any of the proposed specific capital projects from either the BOE or the BOS. There was a discussion regarding the practice to “accrue” for capital on the BOS budget. There were no objection that this established ongoing practice be reviewed and rationalized with the BOE practice of bringing a project forward in its entirety.

MB suggested that the replacement of police cars could be extended from to four years from the current practice of three years. The Committee did not discuss the suggestion of moving BOE capital projects forward.

**iv) Library Budget**

The Library budget was briefly discussed with no suggested changes. The Library’s move to a separate health plan was discussed. It was noted that the Library’s employees are more similar demographically to BOE employees than the town’s workforce.

**v) BOE Healthcare Follow-up**

The sense of the Committee was that it would be worthwhile to follow-up and inquire whether there were any changes to the BOE budgeted healthcare expense.

**vi) BOS proposed inclusion in the 2019-2020 Budget of a reserve for Possible Teacher Pension Allocation from the State.**

ST initiated this discussion and it was noted that: a) an amount may be still undetermined even if legislation is passed; b) the current estimate for FY 2019-2020 is approximately \$435m and c) the BOF could earmark a portion of the General Fund balance to cover this amount for the FY2020. Moreover, appropriation of General Funds would require both BOF and RTM approvals thereby further highlighting this event for taxpayers. Accordingly, the Committee consensus is that the FY 2019-2020 Budget should not include a reserve for this contingency; instead, a General Fund appropriation is preferable from a taxpayer standpoint. In effect, taxpayers would be charged as needed once an amount(s) is determined.

B. Other matters discussed: i) introduction of new projects including the Committee's undertaking its review of banking fees and ii) update as to old business matters such as the reserve funds close-out project and the plastic bag ordinance initiative.

**5. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

**1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Martin**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Howe**

	Martha Banks	Taylor Carter	Jack Davis	Mike Heitz	James Howe	Dave Martin	Iris Mix	Barry Baldwin
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NO								
ABSTAIN								

	Peter Orphanos	Brad Pattelli	Tammy Sload	Bill Smith	Stacey Tie	Bert Von Stuelpnagel	Lisa Yarnell
YES	X		X	X	X	X	
NO							
ABSTAIN							

**Result: Motion Passed (13-0-0)**

**6. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ms. Tie**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Howe**

	Martha Banks	Taylor Carter	Jack Davis	Mike Heitz	James Howe	Dave Martin	Iris Mix	Barry Baldwin
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NO								
ABSTAIN								

	Peter Orphanos	Brad Pattelli	Tammy Sload	Bill Smith	Stacey Tie	Bert Von Stuelpnagel	Lisa Yarnell
YES	X		X	X	X	X	
NO							
ABSTAIN							

**Result: Motion Passed (13-0-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Heitz, Clerk**

**Date: 03.11.2019**