

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE RTM FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Monday, April 20, 2020

Place: Virtual Go to Meeting Conference Call @ 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Jack Davis, Chair, at 5:02 p.m. An apparent hacking intrusion necessitated re-starting the meeting about 15 minutes later and, for this reason, the call to order was not recorded.

Committee Members Attendance:

	Mark Adiletta	Barry Baldwin	Martha Banks	Luisa Brakman	Jack Davis	Mike Heitz	James Howe	Elizabeth Lane	Robert Lyons
Present		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Absent	X								

	Iris Mix	Peter Orphanos	Brad Pattelli	Jennifer Schwartz	Bill Smith	Stacey Tie	Bert von Stuelpnagel	Lisa Yarnell
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Absent								

16 Present and 1 Absent. Needed for Quorum: 9. Quorum attained.

2. Other Attendees Present included: Town Administrator Kate Buch, Sarah Parent, David Martin, Lori Olson, Sarah Neumann, Theresa Vogt, Mike Wheeler and Town Counsel Wayne Fox.

3. Chairperson's Report: Jack Davis provided an overview of the matters to be covered.

4. Discussion and take action to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-13 concerning a gift of to Channel 79 from the darien Foundation in the amount of \$50,768.

F&B is the only Committee reporting on this. Mike Wheeler provided background explanation

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-13 was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Tie
2ND Ms. Yarnell

After calling for any No's or Abstention's, and there being none, the Motion Was Passed Unanimously.

5. Discussion and take action to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-9 on acceptance of Grant from the state of CT for capital Improvement Program at intersection of Noroton Avenue and West Avenue in the mount of \$1,174,000..

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-9 was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. von Stuelpnagel
2ND Ms. Yarnell

After calling for any No's or Abstention's, and there being none, the Motion Was Passed Unanimously.

6. Discussion and take action to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-14 concerning tax deferral and relief due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kate Buch, by way of explanation, provided background and color. This relief is pursuant to an Executive Order ("EO") of the Governor. Kate explained the rationale for the Town taking of the options afforded under the Order. It was further that the BOF recommended that we proceed with this. The EO allows for a 90-day deferral to either certain qualifying taxpayers or to all taxpayers and the Town's rationale for its recommendation to extend relief to qualifying taxpayers was explained. Also explained was the Town's rationale for its recommendation not to offer the low rate relief feature. Kate explained that these recommendations are driven in large part by liquidity concerns. Bert agreed that the benefits be restricted in the manner recommended. Lastly, applicability of this relief to escrowed accounts was discussed as well as certain procedural notice requirements and it was noted that administrative details will be answered and addressed in notices accompanying tax bills.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-14 was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. von Stuelpnagel
2ND Ms. Tie

After calling for any No's or Abstention's and there being none, the Motion Was Passed Unanimously.

7. Discussion and take action to approve for recommendation a proposed resolution for the RTM to cede its authority and to authorize the Board of Finance to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 fiscal year.

Committee members Lane, Orphanos and Heitz reported on their individual analyses and conclusions as to why the proposed resolution should not be approved for recommendation. Joining late, Wayne Fox, Town Counsel, provided an update and offered his views as well. Lastly, numerous committee members weighed-in with their viewpoints as to intent of the EO's and risk assessment.

Jack also shared his observations as to EO 7S and its potential impacts with regard to budget management on a department-by-department basis and possible expanded RTM involvement with respect to certain matters enumerated in the EO. Members also questioned the procedural "provenance" of the proposed resolution.

After ensuing discussions regarding the Governor's EO's 7I, 7S and 7B (including a reading of the resolution) a motion to approve for recommendation this proposed resolution was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Lane
2ND Mr. Howe

	Mark Adiletta	Barry Baldwin	Martha Banks	Luisa Brakman	Jack Davis	Mike Heitz	James Howe	Elizabeth Lane	Robert Lyons
YES									
NO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABSTAIN									

	Iris Mix	Peter Orphanos	Brad Pattelli	Jennifer Schwartz	Bill Smith	Stacey Tie	Bert von Stuelpnagel	Lisa Yarnell
YES								
NO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABSTAIN								

Result: by unanimous vote (0-16-0) the Motion was not approved for recommendation.

8. Discussion of process for the budget moving forward.

By way of an update, Jack provided a few observations as to certain issues relating to the stated goal of achieving a zero percent rate increase in the upcoming mill rate. Potential savings opportunities which arise from the "buddy system" and suggested by Committee members include those offered by: i) Martha - confine capital requests to

those essential for health and safety reasons and defer others; ii) Bob - hold off Park & Rec. consultant fees; iii) Iris - look at budget with a two-year perspective; iv) Peter - develop consensus views wherever appropriate and v) Jennifer - sensitivity analyses are important to charting our path forward; hold off Park & Rec. capital projects; such projects should be confined to those deemed essential.

9. Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on held on Monday, March 9, 2020:

Moved Ms. Tie
2ND Mr. Orphanos

	Mark Adiletta	Barry Baldwin	Martha Banks	Luisa Brakman	Jack Davis	Mike Heitz	James Howe	Elizabeth Lane	Robert Lyons
YES		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NO									
ABSTAIN									

	Iris Mix	Peter Orphanos	Brad Pattelli	Jennifer Schwartz	Bill Smith	Stacey Tie	Bert von Stuelpnagel	Lisa Yarnell
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NO								
ABSTAIN								

Result: Motion Was Passed Unanimously (15-0-1)

8. Motion to Adjourn:

Moved Ms. Lane
2ND Ms. Tie

Result: Motion Passed (16-0-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heitz, Clerk

Date: 04.20.2020