

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE RTM FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Place: Virtual Go to Meeting Conference Call @ 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Jack Davis, Chair, at 7:03 p.m.

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	X
Absent									

	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
Absent			X					

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

2. Other Attendees Present include: Sara Parent, David Martin, Sarah Neumann, Jim Palen, Theresa Vogt, Tara Ochman, Dennis Maroney, Deb Richie, Alan Addley, Julia Best, Lori Olson, C. Piorkowski, and Joanna Walsh.

3. Chairperson’s Report, and Discussion Summary of Agenda Items: Jack reviewed the budget process leading up to this meeting. From a relatively routine beginning, the process diverged in two respects on account of the pandemic. First, there was the misguided interpretation of an Executive Order of the Governor dealing with budget making authority for towns such as Darien having an RTM. This misguided interpretation (which would have eliminated the RTM's traditional role and responsibility) set the subsequent tone and tenor. It also worked seemingly as a harbinger of things to come because the Board of Finance then proceeded largely on its own without significant RTM involvement. In a further divergence, the Board of Finance deviated from custom and practice when it did not address all four "Senses of Committee" taken in our May, 4th meeting. Concurring with Jack's overall dissatisfaction and regret as to the outcome and the budget now presented for the RTM's consideration, Peter weighed-in with observations which accompany these minutes. Similarly, Beth, Martha, Bob, Stacy, Jenn, Lisa and Mike, all expressed their views.

4. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-20 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$216,756 BY WAY OF TRANSFER FROM THE DEBT FUND TO A REVENUE LINE IN THE FY21 BUDGET.

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

Moved Ms. Yarnell

2ND Ms. Tie

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

5. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-16 APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000,000 FOR REFUNDING OF CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S BONDS AND AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS OR AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-16 was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. Heitz

2ND Ms. Brakman

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

6. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-17 APPROPRIATION OF \$503,000 FOR SIDEWALK REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$503,000 TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-17 was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Yarnell

2ND Ms. Mix

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

7. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-18 APPROPRIATION OF \$1,015,000 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE

ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,015,000 TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-18 was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. Orphanos
2ND Ms. Tie

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

8. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDING AND REDUCING RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (A) BY \$100,000 (FROM \$2,291,845 to \$2,191,845) WITH RESPECT TO TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENTS

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve amending and reducing Resolution 20-15(A) was moved and seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. Davis
2ND Ms. Lane

	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
NO									
ABSTAIN		X							

	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
NO								
ABSTAIN								

Yes: 14, Abstentions:1 Absents: 2 - the Motion Was Passed.

9. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDING AND FURTHER REDUCING RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (A) BY \$46,000 (FROM \$2,191,845 to \$2,145,845) WITH RESPECT TO DEFERRING CERTAIN PROPOSED FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITY FENCING

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve amending and reducing Resolution 20-15(A) was moved and seconded as follows:

Yes: 14, No: 0, Abstentions: 0, Absents: 3 - the Motion Was Passed.

11. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDED AND REDUCED RTM RESOLUTION 20-15(A) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION:

20-15 (A) RESOLVED, that an amended and reduced appropriation of \$2,073,845 is hereby made from the Reserve Fund for the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Town of Darien as shown by the budget this day approved.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation amended Resolution 20-15(A) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Tie
2ND Ms. Yarnell

	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	
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
NO								
ABSTAIN								

Yes: 14, No: 0, Abstentions: 0, Absents: 3 - the Motion Was Passed.

12. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDING AND REDUCING RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (B) BY \$100,000 (FROM \$45,365,691 to \$45,265,691) WITH RESPECT TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE CONTINGENCY RESERVE.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve amending and reducing Resolution 20-15(B) was moved and seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. Davis
2ND Mr. Yarnell

	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	
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
NO								
ABSTAIN								

Yes: 13, No: 0, Abstentions: 0, Absents: 4 - the Motion Was Passed.

13. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDED AND REDUCED RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (B) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION:

20-15 (B) RESOLVED, that an amended and reduced appropriation of \$45,265,691 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Selectmen’s Operating Budget.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation amended Resolution 20-15(B) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Yarnell
2ND Ms. Lane

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

14. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (C) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION:

20-15 (C) RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$102,496,378 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Education Operating Budget.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-15(C) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Lane
2ND Mr. Orphanos

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

15. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDED AND REDUCED RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (D) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION:

(AMENDED TO REFLECT ABOVE) 20-15 (D) RESOLVED, that the above appropriations, totaling \$147,544,069 are for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Town of Darien for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 as shown by the budget this day approved.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-15(D) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Lane
2ND Ms. Tie

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

16. MOTION IN FAVOR OF AMENDED AND REDUCED RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (E) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION

(AMENDED TO REFLECT ABOVE) 20-15 (E) RESOLVED, that a tax of ~~16.36~~ **16.33** mills is hereby levied upon the last complete grand list of the Town with a total net assessment of \$8,568,308,532 on property as of October 1, 2019, payable in two equal semi-annual installments, the first installment to become due and payable on July 1, 2020 and the second installment to become due and payable on January 1, 2021, provided however that: 1. Any taxpayer may pay both of said installments on July 1, 2020; 2. The personal property tax on motor vehicles in said Town shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2020 3. Any property tax in any amount not in excess of one hundred (\$ 100.00) shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2020

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-15(E) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Banks
2ND Ms. Orphanos

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

17. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (F) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING

20-15 (F) RESOLVED, that the Town of Darien, acting through its Board of Selectmen, and subject to the approval of said Town at the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to be held June 8, 2020, be authorized to borrow on the note or notes of the Town the sum of \$10,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the general expenses of the Town pending the collection of either or both of said semi-annual installments of taxes on or prior to June 30, 2021.

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-15(F) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Mr. Orphanos
2ND Ms. Tie

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

18. MOTION IN FAVOR OF RTM RESOLUTION 20-15 (G) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BUDGET. SPECIFICALLY, THE FOLLOWING

20-15 (G) RESOLVED, that the following appropriations for other funds are hereby made as detailed below for the 2020-2021 fiscal year as shown by the budget this day approved

\$4,009,013	Sewer Operating Fund for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Town of Darien, Sewer Commission
\$550,000	Sewer Assessment Fund
\$99,500	Sewer Capital Fund
\$1,097,620	Parking Lot Administration Fund
\$400,000	Parking Lot Capital Fund

After ensuing discussions, a motion to approve for recommendation Resolution 20-15(G) was moved, seconded as follows:

Moved Ms. Tie
2ND Ms. Banks

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

19. Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on held on Monday, May 4, 2020:

Moved Ms. Yarnell

2ND Ms. Mix

	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	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
NO								
ABSTAIN								

Result: Motion Was Passed Unanimously (16-0-0)

20. Motion to Adjourn:

Moved Ms. Banks

2ND Mr. Orphanos

Result: Motion Passed (16-0-0)

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heitz, Clerk

Date: 06.04.2020