

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

RULES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Regular Meeting, May 18, 2020

7:30 p.m., Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Seth Morton (Moderator), Mark Adiletta (V), Lois Schneider (I), Frank Kemp (IV), Mike Wheeler (II), Jack Davis (III), Theresa Vogt (VI), Adele Conniff (III), Patti Bumgardner (I), Monica McNally (II), Ann Reed (V), Shannon Silsby (VI),

Absent: Joe Miceli (IV),

Guest(s): Channel 79, Jeter (Dog)

Meeting was called to order 7:36 PM by the Moderator.

A motion for the approval of the April 13, 2020 Minutes, with no changes, was moved. Motion was moved by Ms. Conniff, Second Mr. Davis. Motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss pending items and assign Committees for the budget meeting.

Budget for 7/1/20 – 6/30/2021, the assignment of subcommittees was discussed as follows:

- A RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$2,291,845 is hereby made from the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Town of Darien as shown by the budget this day approved. **Primary F&B, Any other subcommittee can speak on capital**
- B RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$45,365,691 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Selectmen's Operating Budget. **Primary F&B, Any other subcommittee except TGS&A and Education**
- C RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$102,496,378 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Education Operating Budget. **Primary Education, Secondary F&B**
- D RESOLVED, that the above appropriations, totaling \$147,862,069 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. **Primary F&B,**
- E RESOLVED, that a tax of 16.36 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: **Primary F&B,**

- 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
- 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. **Primary F&B,**
- 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. **Primary F&B,**

- - 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

- **Primary F&B,**

- Special Appropriation

Approved by the Board of Finance for referral to the Representative Town Meeting (RTM):

Primary F&B,

Source:

To:

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount		Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
100-17200	Premium on Bonds	216,756		20508111-87875	Transfer Out To Other Funds	216,756
	TOTAL	\$216,756			TOTAL	\$216,756

- RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$30,000,000) TO REFUND CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S OUTSTANDING BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS OR AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION: **Primary – F&B**
- Bonding of annual sidewalks renovation \$503m. **Primary – F&B, Secondary PH&S, PW**
- Bonding resolution of \$1,015m involving Town Hall Gym windows, NHFD Gas Line, new sidewalks other **Primary – F&B**
- Discussion of capital items to be addressed by other committees during A (above) capital.

A motion was made by Ms. Bumgardner, second by Mr. Wheeler assigning subcommittees to the items as described above. Motion was approved unanimously.

A discussion followed wrt the Amendment Appendix B, Part III of Darien's Code of Ordinances, Rules of Procedure of the RTM.

- 1) a stand-alone alternative resolution that addresses only the move of the State of the Town to January
- 2) a stand-alone alternative resolution that addresses only the addition of a 10-day window for moving the date of an RTM Meeting.

A motion was made with a second to split the two items above. Placement of the attached resolution on the Agenda for the June 8 RTM meeting.

This resolution amends Appendix B of the Town Code - to permit flexibility in scheduling RTM meetings - i.e. within 10 days of the prescribed date, for good cause.

Note that is not the resolution that had previously been under consideration it is only half of it. The half that dealt with the move of the State of the Town meeting to January was not forwarded for RTM consideration. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to give the Moderator flexibility to move the date 10 days was made by Ms. Schneider, a Second by Ms. Bumgardner. Motion was approved unanimously.

There being no motion to add this item #1 above to the agenda of the RTM, the meeting proceeded.

Mr. Davis made a motion as follows:

Consistent with the precedent of other Boards, only members of the Darien Representative Town meeting will be speaking during the June 8th budget meeting. All other comments must be submitted to the Moderator no later than 6:30 pm on June 8, 2020. Theresa was second.

FOR: Mr. Davis, Ms. Vogt, Ms. Silsby, Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Reed

AGAINST: Mr. Kemp, Mr. Adiletta, Ms. Conniff, Ms. Schneider, Ms. McNally, Ms. Bumgardner

Motion did not pass.

Mr. Kemp made a motion:

The Rules Committee invite the First Selectman, and/or the Director of the Board of Health, to report to the RTM as to the status of executive orders concerning the COVID19, and the statics concerning positive tests and deaths in the community. Further, as permitted by FOI and privacy recommendations, further breakout as to the demographics within each statistic, i.e. age, location (hospital or assisted living facility)

Mr. Davis amended to the above to take place during the Moderators announcements.

The Moderator took a sense of the meeting to proceed with the above announcement.

Ms. Coniff moved the motion, Ms. Schneider second on setting the agenda for June 8, 2020 RTM Meeting, as prescribed above.

With no other business presented, there was a motion to adjourn 9:23 PM.

Mark Adiletta, Clerk

cc: Standing Committee Chairs
District Chairs
First Selectman
Rules Committee

**AMENDED RESOLUTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN TO AMEND ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE IN
PARTICULAR, APPENDIX B, PART III, SECTION 2 DEALING WITH
REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, Appendix B of the Rules of Procedure provides for, among other things, Regular and Special Meetings;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Representative Town Meeting to provide the moderator with more flexibility, specifically regarding rescheduling Town Meetings;

WHEREAS, Part III, Section 2 of said Rules provides authority for the moderator, under limited conditions, to reschedule days for a meeting of the Representative Town Meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Part III, Section 2 of the Rules of Procedure shall be amended as follows:

In the event of inclement weather, power failure or similar circumstances, the failure to obtain a quorum at the time of said scheduled meeting of the RTM, or in the event it is decided by the moderator to postpone said scheduled meeting for reasonable cause as determined in the sole discretion of the moderator, the moderator has the discretion to reschedule the meeting to a date within ten (10) days of the scheduled meeting. Notice of rescheduling and the reasonable cause for the rescheduling shall be given to the town clerk and RTM in a reasonable manner.