

**Town of Deerfield Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 2022  
Revised Version**

Hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. Joint meeting with the Select Board.

**Attending:** James Cambias (secretary), Julie Chalfant (chair), Skip Olmstead, John Paciorek, John Paresky.

**Also Present:** Brenda Hill, Trevor McDaniel, Carolyn Shores Ness (via Zoom), Jennifer Remillard, Kayce Warren (via Zoom), Dave Wolfram, Analee Wulfkuhle (via Zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm by Ms. Chalfant.

- Ms. Chalfant reported on other committee reports and decisions. Also reported that she has drafted an email to Deerfield Elementary School about budgeting and asked for comment. Ms. Ness mentioned how much of the school expense is due to school choice costs.

Ms. Chalfant reported that she has prepared the Annual Report from the Finance Committee and asked for comment.

- Mr. Cambias moved to accept the Minutes of March 1. Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. Mr. Paresky moved to amend the minutes by deleting "Pioneer Valley Planning" and correct the mistaken sum of a Comcast contract increase. The amendment passes unanimously.

The Minutes as amended are approved unanimously.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$500 for the Council on Aging (account 541-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Ms. Hill notes this hasn't been spent for a couple of years. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Cambias moved to recommend \$64,993 for Senior Center expenses (account 541-5420). Mr. Paciorek seconded.

Jennifer Remillard briefed us on the Senior Center expenses. She is adding an outreach coordinator position to the budget in case is not funded by an SIG grant. She allocated \$12,000 for rent to Holy Family parish because of delays in renovation of the old Congregational Church.

Mr. Paresky asked about facilities cost, and Ms. Remillard explained that it's for the existing building, which is still partly in use.

Mr. Paciorek asked what the current plan is about the buildings. Trevor McDaniel explained that the old Congregational Church building remodel probably won't start until September. Once the Senior Center is in that building we can begin work on the current building.

Ms. Remillard outlined current programs, and offered to come back and report in 6 months after she can finish organizing information.

Mr. Paciorek offered suggestions about client numbers. Ms. Remillard says the state bases their funding on Census data from 2020.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$4,100,475 for the Frontier Regional School budget (account 310-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion.

Ms. Hill pointed out that the school transport budget decreased, so the school expense actually increases by only about \$40 thousand.

Mr. Cambias asked about the increase in SPED teachers but nobody had any information. Mr. Paresky asked about how Deerfield's contribution to the school budget is calculated.

The motion passed 4-0-1.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$79,511 for FRS transportation (account 315-5800). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion.

Mr. Olmstead asked if this includes elementary school transport and why it dropped so dramatically. Nobody was able to determine this.

The motion passed 4-0-1.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$1385 for FRS Capital costs (account 310-5800). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion.

Mr. McDaniel noted that this is just an interest payment.

The motion passed unanimously.

- \* Mr. Cambias moved to recommend \$41,000 for Smith Vocational tuition (no account number). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Cambias moved to recommend \$23,500 for Smith Vocational transport. Ms. Chalfant seconded the motion.

Mr. Olmstead asked about subsidizing parents instead of paying for buses for Smith Vocational, as this amounts to several thousand dollars per student.

The motion does not pass, 2-2-1.

The Committee agreed to revisit this topic with more information at a later date.

- Mr. Olmstead moved to recommend \$39,760 for Other Post Employment Benefits funding (account OPEB). This cost is down 4.45 percent, following the usual formula of contributing 4 percent of the previous year's insurance cost. Ms. Hill believes some retirements led to the reduction in cost.

The motion passed 3-2-0.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$400 for Town Moderator cost (account 114-5100). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Olmstead moved to recommend \$500 for Finance Committee expenses (account 131-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$17,025 for Town Accountant expense (account 135-5400). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. Ms. Hill mentioned that this has increased by \$500 this year to cover an increase in the auditor fee, which makes up the bulk of the Accountant expense.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$4000 for the PEG Access Capital fund (account 155-5800). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. Mr. McDaniel and Ms. Hill explained that this is for equipment like cameras and electronics at the Town Office, as mandated by our Comcast contract. Discussion about ways to improve the Town Office AV setup.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$1000 for the Conservation Commission (account 171-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$2000 for the Planning Board (account 175-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The planning services cost of \$6500 was shifted to the new Planner line under Contracted Services, with a \$1500 increase for training for Planning Board members, creating a reduction of \$5000 in the Planning Board budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$2000 for the Zoning Board of Appeals (account 176-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. The increase from last year is to better fit anticipated expenses. Mr. Olmstead pointed out that bylaw changes should mean less work for ZBA. The motion passed 4-1-0.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$1000 for the Energy Committee (account 182-5400). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. Funding has not changed since 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$13,743 for the Veterans District Assessment (account 543-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a mandated expense. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Cambias moved to recommend \$21,000 for Veterans Benefits (account 543-5410). Ms. Chalfant seconded the motion. Mr. Paciorek outlined how the benefits program operates. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$53,167 for the Recreation Department Director salary (account 634-5110). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. Brief discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$1,175 for the Historical Commission (account 691-5400). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. Funding has not changed since 2017. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$2000 for the Veterans/Memorial Day celebration expense (account 692-5800). This funding has been steady since 2017. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$100,000 for the Reserve Fund. Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. Ms. Ness asked if this should be increased due to uncertain conditions in the year ahead. Mr. Paciorek noted that we haven't yet gone over that amount. Mr. Cambias asked how much has been spent in 2022. According to Ms. Hill we have spent about half of the 2022 reserve. Mr. Olmstead pointed out that the Reserve Fund could be amended at the Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$2709 spent from the Dickinson Library Trust for the town and school libraries. Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. This is a mandatory expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$45,091 for our Franklin Regional Council of Governments assessment (account 830-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$10,000 for the town 350th Anniversary celebration in 2023. Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Chalfant discussed the agenda for next meeting and the weeks ahead.
- Mr. Cambias moved to adjourn. Ms Chalfant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.