

**Town of Deerfield Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting, March 15, 2022**

Hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting.

**Attending:** Beth Brown, James Cambias (secretary), Julie Chalfant (chair), Skip Olmstead, John Paciorek, John Paresky, Allison van der Velden.

Joint meeting with Select Board and Capital Improvements Planning Committee.

**Also Present:** Ken Cuddeback (virtual), Brenda Hill, Charles Shattuck, Francis Sobieski.

Meeting called to order by Ms. Chalfant at 5:03 p.m. on March 15.

Mr. Paresky reported that Personnel Board met last night, and approved Town Nurse job description, draft of Town Treasurer and Town Clerk separate job descriptions, and SCEMS director Smith submitted request for several new positions.

Brief discussion about how to notify people of vacancies on town committees.

Clarification from last week about Frontier transport budget. It does not include DES, and the reduction is due to some state funds.

Ms. Chalfant reported on the CCI meeting: the old Grammar School needs some brick work, the former Congregational Church needs a structural analysis and they're looking for an engineer to do it. A professor and students from UMass looked at them and made recommendations for energy efficiency.

No public commentary.

Discussion with Capital Improvements Planning Committee on how to manage the large capital expenses this year, and how much our borrowing limit is. Also discussion of priorities in capital expenditures. CIPC meeting adjourned. They will draw up a priorities list.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the Minutes of the March 8 meeting. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-2.

Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$5,098,948 for Deerfield Elementary School (account 300-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Ms. Chalfant mention the possibility of reducing 4th grade from 3 classes to 2, thereby saving a faculty position. Mr. Cuddeback discussed difficulties faced in budgeting for DES. The motion passed 6-0-1

Mr. Cuddeback commented that the Tri-Town Beach committee has not yet met to submit a budget.

Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$11,000 for Assessor salaries (account 141-5100). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is level funding from last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$69,007 for the Assessors Administrative Assistant salary (account 141-5110). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$18,875 for Assessors expenses (account 141-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. This amount is a decrease of 18.38 percent from last year, chiefly due to more meetings being held virtually. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$25,000 for the Assessors Quinquennial Recertifications (account 142-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. This is an increase from last year. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about whether services need to be cut to balance the budget, and how to estimate the increases for the departments still under labor negotiation.

Mr. Cambias moved to adjourn. Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.