

**Town of Deerfield  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2023  
REVISED**

**Attending:** Mark Brennan, Beth Brown, James Cambias, Julie Chalfant, John Paresky, Allison van der Velden (via Zoom)

**Also Present:** Brenda Hill, Zoe Smith, Carolyn Shores Ness (via Zoom), Jennifer Remillard, Ken Cuddeback (via Zoom).

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., in the Deerfield Town Offices main meeting room.

Mr. Cambias moved to approve the Minutes of February 28 (revised). Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Zoe Smith discussed the SCEMS Enterprise Fund budget. The full budget is \$1,619,378. Income from billing and retained earnings is \$917,054. The towns cover the remaining \$702,324, of which Deerfield's share is \$363,531. This represents an increase of \$17,838 or 5.16 percent from last year.

Director Smith also discussed the SCEMS Capital request for a new ambulance. The fleet currently has three, one is in need of replacement.

At some point the meeting lost wireless and Dr. van der Velden.

No action was taken, as the SCEMS Board of Oversight and Select Board has have yet to approve the budget.

Jennifer Remillard discussed the Senior Center Expense budget. The full budget is \$151,646. Deerfield's share is \$75,822, an increase of \$10,829 or 16.66 percent.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$75,822 for Senior Center Expense (account 541-5420). Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Brown left at 7:20.

Ken Cuddeback discussed the Summer Swim Program. The budget is \$6,310, which is level funding from last year. This uses some of the balance accumulated in the revolving fund since 2018. Mr. Cuddeback is very optimistic that the program will happen this summer.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the sum of \$6,310 for the Summer Swim Program budget (account 630-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Cuddeback also discussed the budget for Tri-Town Beach. This year's full budget request is \$55,379, and Deerfield's share is \$41,022. This represents an increase of \$13,802 over 2023. The budget increase is largely due to the cost of vegetation control, as the pond has an endangered plant species in it, requiring extra permits. Lifeguard wages have also gone up.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$41,022 for Tri-Town Beach (account 530-5410). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$17,350 for Town Accountant expenses (account 135-5400). Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. This represents a 1.9 percent increase over last year. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$159,502 for Town Treasurer/Collector Salaries (account 145-5110). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This represents a decline of 16.7 percent from 2023, due to transferring the Assistant Town Clerk position to the Town Clerk budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$65,520 for General Insurance (account 196-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is an increase of 4 percent over last year, due to a rise in insurance rates. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$175,292 for the Inspections Department payroll (account 241-5110). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This represents an increase of \$6,115, or 3.61 percent, but according to Ms. Hill this is offset by fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$4,950 for Inspections Department expenses (account 241-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is level funding from last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$2,800 for Emergency Management (account 291-5400). Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. Police Chief Paciorek serves as Emergency Management head. This represents flat funding from last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$500 for the Council on Aging (account 541-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is flat funding from last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the sum of \$14,195 for the Veterans District Assessment (account 543-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This assessment is a legally-mandated expense. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$250 for the ADA Coordinator (account 549-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$1,175 for the Historical Commission expense (account 691-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This budget has remained constant since 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$2,000 for Veterans Day and Memorial Day observance expenses (account 692-5800). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$42,264 for the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Core Assessment (account 830-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a reduction of \$2,827 or 6.27 percent from 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$10,000 for Unfunded Sick Leave and Vacation cost (account 910-5800). Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. The sum is nearly impossible to predict, but averages about \$10,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. on March 20.