

**Town of Deerfield Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of March 22, 2022**

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

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

Also Present: Brenda Hill, Kayce Warren (virtual).

- Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. on March 22, 2022.
- Mr. Cambias moved to accept the Minutes of the March 15 meeting. Dr. van der Velden seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- Ms. Chalfant reported on other committee activities over the past week.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$59,897 for the Town Accountant salary (account 135-5110). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. Mr. Olmstead asked if the town has approved the new salary schedule. It will be a warrant article at the upcoming Town Meeting but has been used as the basis for planning. Motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend the sum of \$85,500 for Town Building maintenance (account 192-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This revises the earlier recommendation downward by \$2,300. Motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend the sum of \$541,163 for the town's share of the Franklin Tech school assessment (account 320-5410). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. The increase is due to more Deerfield students at Franklin Tech this year. Motion passed 6-0-1.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$18,561 for Franklin Tech capital budget (account 320-5800). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$219,000 for Transfer Station expenses (account 433-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. This revises the earlier recommendation downward by \$3300. Motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$38,000 for Test Well Monitoring and maintenance (account 439-5400). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. This revises the earlier recommendation down by \$2000. The motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$345,693 for the SCEMS Enterprise Fund. Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. This revises the earlier

recommendation down by \$52,273 by reducing the SCEMS operational reserve for 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Hill noted that several budgets are still in flux due to labor negotiations. The budget has a \$100,000 line to cover "contract settlements" which allows us to plan around possible salary increases.

Ms. Hill also noted that the walk-in cooler for Frontier Regional School has been removed from the town budget as it will be a separate warrant article of its own at the Town Meeting.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$191,507 for Treasurer/Collector Salaries (account 145-5110). Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. Ms. Hill outlined the duties of the new Town Clerk position (account 161-5110), which will be separate from the Treasurer job.

Mr. Paresky moved to combine the recommendations on the Treasurer/Collector and Town Clerk salaries in a single resolution, for \$191,507 and \$34,760 respectively. Mr. Paciorek seconded the amendment. The amendment passed 5-0-2.

Long discussion about increases in town staffing. Motion passed 6-1-0.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to recommend \$457,815 for Maturing Debt (account 710-5900). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This includes paying down the principal on the Highway Department garage, the DES roof, and Phase 1 of the Wastewater Treatment project. The motion passed 6-1-0.

- Mr. Cambias moved to recommend \$201,545 for Interest on Maturing Debt (account 751-5900). Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. Ms. Hill admitted that the figures for the Wastewater Treatment Plant loan are entirely conjectural, and she will have better information after talking with our financial advisor. Motion withdrawn.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$5000 for Interest on Temporary Loans (account 752-5900). Dr. van der Velden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of Wastewater Treatment Plant renovation costs and how to fund them.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$23,500 for Smith Vocational transportation. Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1-0.

- Mr. Paciorek moved to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.