

**Town of Deerfield
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2023**

Joint meeting with Select Board

Attending: Mark Brennan, Beth Brown, James Cambias (secretary), Julie Chalfant (chair), Dave Sharp

Also Present: Candace Bradbury Carlin (via Zoom), Tim Hilchey (via Zoom), Brenda Hill, Nancy Maynard (via Zoom), Trevor McDaniel, Carolyn Shores Ness, Christopher Nolan (via Zoom).

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. on April 12, 2023, in the Deerfield Town Offices.

Mr. Cambias moved to approve the Minutes of the April 6 meeting, noting a correction to the Police Department expenses account number. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed, 4-0-0, Ms. Brown not having arrived.

The Committee re-examined the Tilton Library budget, focusing on the potential cost of benefits in the future resulting from making the Adult Services librarian a benefitted position.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend reducing the Tilton Library budget (account 610-5400) to \$207,599. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Discussion continued, including some consideration of the overall role of the Finance Committee in general.

Mr. Cambias moved the question. Mr. Brennan seconded that motion. The motion to end debate passed unanimously.

The motion to reduce the Tilton Library budget failed, 0-4-1.

The Committee examined the Budget Overview, discussed how to contain expenses in the future, and reviewed the text of the Overview draft document. No motions were made.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the sum of \$120,000 for the Reserve Fund (account 132-5400). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to reduce the Town Accountant salaries budget (account 135-5110) to \$91,615. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This measure was suggested by the Town Accountant, and would reduce the Administrative Assistant position to 7 hours a week. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 19 of the Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. This is a change in the Bylaws to permit accessory dwelling units on existing residential property. The Committee could find no direct effect on the Town budget and considered the measure generally beneficial. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sharp moved to recommend Article 18 of the Warrant. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This is a measure to permit the Town Clerk to define Saturdays as legal holidays for the purposes of voter registration and elections. The Committee asked for explanations and clarifications of how this would work and why it was needed. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chalfant moved to adjourn. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.