

**Town of Deerfield
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2023**

Members Attending: Mark Brennan, Beth Brown, James Cambias (secretary), Julie Chalfant (chair).

Also Present: Brenda Hill, Trevor McDaniel, Christopher Nolan (via Zoom), Kayce Warren (via Zoom).

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Deerfield Town Office building.

The Secretary regretted not sending out the Minutes of the April 12 meeting in time for them to be reviewed.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$157,648 for the 2024 Treasurer/Collector Salary (account 145-5110). Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This sum was suggested by the Town Accountant, and represents a reduction of \$1,854 from the amount previously recommended. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Ms. Brown moved to recommend the sum of \$67,296 for Snow and Ice overage for 2023, to be voted in Town Meeting Warrant Article 5. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion.

After some discussion Ms. Chalfant moved to amend the sum to \$87,296. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The amendment passed unanimously.

The amended motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend Article 1 of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article incorporates routine business including Town official compensation, accepting grants and gifts to the Town, the Dickinson Trust, etc. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Ms. Brown moved to recommend Article 2 of the Warrant. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This Article incorporates the Reserve Fund allocation of \$120,000, the OPEB fund allocation of \$39,308, and Smith Vocational tuition and transportation of \$160,000. The Committee having already approved these measures separately, the motion passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Brown moved to recommend Article 3 of the Warrant. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This Article fixes maximum amounts to be spent for the Revolving Funds for Recycling, Parks & Recreation, and Planning. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 4 of the Warrant. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article ratifies the Compensation Plan for Town employees. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 5 of the Warrant. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article covers Snow and Ice removal overage, as discussed above.

After discussion, Mr. Brennan moved to amend the motion to recommend Article 5, up to the sum of \$87,296. Ms. Brown seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend passed 4-0-0.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend Article 6 of the Warrant, up to the amount of \$17,482,659. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This is the Omnibus Budget for the town, and has been extensively reviewed by the Committee. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 8 of the Warrant as written. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This is to fund the Sewer Enterprise Fund, using enterprise revenue and retained earnings. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend Article 10 of the Warrant as written. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This would fund capital expenditures. Mr. McDaniel discussed the use of ARPA funds.

Mr. Brennan moved to amend the recommendation to specify \$125,000 from the sale of real estate, \$467,343 from the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$250,000 from SCEMS retained earnings to fund repairs to the Deerfield Elementary front entrance, DES HVAC system, a Freightliner truck for the Department of Public Works, an ambulance for SCEMS, and cardiac monitors for SCEMS. Ms. Brown seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend passed, 4-0-0.

The amended motion passed, 3-1-0.

Ms. Brown moved to recommend Article 11 of the Warrant. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This Article spends Community Protection Fund money on various projects.

After discussion, Ms. Brown withdrew the motion pending CIPC approval of the items to be funded. Mr. Brennan withdrew his second.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 12 of the Warrant. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article concerns the wording of deed restriction requirements for funding work on the "Indian House" in Old Deerfield. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 13 of the Warrant. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article enables Frontier Regional School to establish a capital stabilization fund. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend Article 14 of the Warrant. Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. This Article would establish an Opioid Stabilization Fund to hold funds from the Opioid Settlement payout. After some discussion with Ms. Hill and Ms. Warren about how this would fit into the fiscal year, the motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to reeommend Article 15 as written. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article would dedicate Opioid Settlement funds to the Stabilization Fund. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

After additional discussion about how this would affect the Town's Free Cash position between the start of the Fiscal Year and October, Mr. Brennan moved to rescind the recommendation of Article 15. Ms. Brown seconded the motion to rescind. The motion to rescind recommending Article 15 passed unanimously.

Mr. Cambias moved to make no recommendation of Article 17 as it would have no significant financial impact. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This Article would set a regular date for any Special Town Meeting held in the Fall, but would not make the meeting mandatory. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

The Committee's next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on April 19, via Zoom.

Ms. Brown moved to adjourn. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.