

**Town of Deerfield
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of July 10, 2023**

(Hybrid meeting at Town Office and via Zoom.)

Members Present: Mark Brennan, Beth Brown, Julie Chalfant (chair), James Cambias (sect'y), John Paresky, Dave Sharp, Alison van der Velden

Also Present: Brenda Hill, Christopher Nolan

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. on July 10, 2023, at the Deerfield Town offices, 8 Conway Street.

Ms. Chalfant announced that elections to Committee positions will be next meeting.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the minutes of the April 12 meeting. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Mr. Cambias summarized the contents. The motion passed, 5-0-2.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the minutes of the April 18 meeting. Ms. Paresky seconded the motion. Mr. Cambias summarized the contents. The motion passed, 5-0-2.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the minutes of the April 19 meeting. Mr. Sharp seconded the motion. Mr. Cambias summarized the contents. The motion passed, 5-0-2.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the minutes of the April 24 meeting. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Mr. Cambias summarized the contents. The motion passed, 6-0-1.

Ms. Hill reported that the town has closed a 6-month short term loan related to the ongoing construction project, and taken out a second until December. Our Moody's bond rating has actually improved, which is good news.

Ms. Chalfant reported on Library building committee which toured the new Greenfield library. Mr. Brennan reported on the CIPC meeting, Ms. Chalfant reported on the CCI meeting.

The Committee reviewed draft financial reports. Revenues for the end of Fiscal Year 2023 have come in slightly above estimates, and expenditures slightly below, but the margin is still very narrow.

Mr. Paresky moved to approve the request to transfer \$3500 from the Select Board salaries account to Select Board expenses. Dr. van der Velden seconded the motion. This is to cover extra costs for attendance at the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual conference. Discussion veered off to the issue of costs for the conference in general and keeping them under budget. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The committee agreed informally to encourage the Select Board to keep within budget for future conferences, and not stay over after conferences in Boston at Town expense.

Paresky moved to approve the request to transfer \$55,000 from the Reserve Fund to cover extra legal costs. Mr. Sharp seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to approve the transfer of \$1200 from the Town Clerk salaries account to Town Clerk expenses. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is to cover extra Bylaw Maintenance expenses. The motion passed 6-1-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to approve the transfer of \$4000 from the Reserve Fund to the Town Office Building maintenance account. Dr. van der Velden seconded the motion. The extra cost stems from the Town taking over maintenance of the 1888 building from the Senior Center budget, and an increase in utilities costs in general. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to transfer \$100 from the Select Board Staff salaries account to Town Office expenses. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is to cover extra publishing costs. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dr. van der Velden moved to transfer \$2000 from the Reserve Fund to the General Insurance account. Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. Ms. Hill explained that this is to cover higher insurance costs, and because credits due from insurance company did not arrive in time. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dr. van der Velden moved to transfer \$5,500 from the Reserve Fund to the Highway Department salaries account. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is to cover the Tree Warden stipend left off of budget estimate, and extra pay for assistant superintendant due to his expanded workload. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. van der Velden moved to transfer \$10,298.73 from the Reserve Fund to the Snow & Ice Removal account. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This covers the remaining excess costs from last winter. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dr. van der Velden moved to transfer \$5,000 from the Street Lighting account to the Transfer Station expenses account. Mr. Cambias seconded the motion.

This to cover extra expense of the new Transfer Station shed. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. van der Velden moved to transfer \$1,300 from the Board of Health Staff Salaries account to Board of Health Expenses. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The extra expense was for training to get a staff member certified for soil inspection. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. van der Velden moved to transfer \$1,500 from the Group Insurance account to Medicare Insurance. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The increase in Medicare cost is due to the increase in wages for Town and school employees. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cambias moved to adjourn. Dr. van der Velden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.