

## **Town of Deerfield Finance Committee**

### **Minutes of the Meeting: Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

(Hybrid meeting.)

**Members present:** Mark Brennan, Beth Brown, James Cambias (secretary), Julie Chalfant (chair), John Paresky.

**Members attending via Zoom:** David Sharp

**Also Present:** Brenda Hill, Trevor McDaniel, Kayce Warren (via Zoom)

#### **Documents Submitted:**

- FY 24 Storm Damage Expenses
- Draft Warrant for October 2023 Special Town Meeting
- End-of-Year and End-of-Quarter Financial Reports
- Town of Deerfield FY24 MVP Action Grant Scope/Budget for "Deerfield Green Infrastructure"

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on October 3, 2023 in the Town Offices.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the Minutes of the July 10 meeting. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0-1, Ms. Brown not yet having arrived.

Ms. Chalfant then entertained nominations for officers.

Mr. Paresky nominated Ms. Chalfant for Chair of the Committee. Mr. Cambias seconded the nomination.

Mr. Cambias nominated Mr. Paresky for Vice-Chair of the Committee. Mr. Brennan seconded the nomination.

Mr. Brennan nominated Mr. Sharp for to represent the Finance Committee on the Personnel Committee. Mr. Cambias seconded the nomination.

Mr. Cambias nominated Mr. Brennan to represent the Committee on the CIPC. Mr. Paresky seconded the nomination.

Mr. Paresky nominated Mr. Cambias for Secretary. Mr. Brennan seconded the nomination. As there was only one nomination for each position, a single vote was held on all positions. The motion passed 5-0-0, Ms. Brown not yet having arrived.

Ms. Chalfant informed the Committee that Dr. van der Velden has resigned, so we are in need of another member. Deerfield residents are encouraged to volunteer. Mr. Paresky recommends adding the vacancy to the Town of Deerfield Web site.

The Committee reviewed the Financial reports. Mr. Cambias had some questions about the titles of accounts which Ms. Hill clarified.

The Committee reviewed the draft Warrant for the upcoming Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 23.

**Article 1:** A bill for \$2,240.00 for unpaid Smith Vocational School transport fees. Mr. Brennan moved that the Committee recommend Article 1. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Article 2:** \$3000 for an AED at the transfer station. Mr. McDaniel and Ms. Warren stated that this Article may be removed before the Town Meeting and the cost paid out of Free Cash. Mr. Cambias moved that the Committee recommend Article 2. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Article 3:** \$9,500 for crossing lights at North Main and Pleasant Streets. Mr. Paresky moved that the Committee recommend Article 3. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. Some discussion. Mr. Sharp wondered if the expense of the school crossing guard at that location might be saved as a result. The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Article 4:** \$89,410 to match the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness funding for three "Deerfield Green Infrastructure" projects as noted in the submitted document. Mr. Cambias moved that the Committee recommend Article 4, limited to no more than \$92,176. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. Considerable discussion about the three projects. The full amount of the grant is \$238,000, plus this matching funding.

Mr. Paresky moved to amend the motion to add the phrase, "subject to recommendation by CIPC." Ms. Chalfant seconded the amendment.

The amendment passed, 6-0-0.

During discussion Ms. Chalfant asked Ms. Hill about how much certified free cash the town has. She gave an approximate figure of "about \$1.5 million," mostly due to large one-time permit revenues. Mr. McDaniel explained how projects are chosen for MVP grant applications.

The amended motion passed 4-1-1.

**Article 5:** \$250,000 to replace the Police Department HVAC system. Mr. Brennan moved that the Committee recommend Article 5 pending CIPC recommendation. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. At the previous Annual Town Meeting this expenditure was approved to make use of ARPA funds. Mr. McDaniel explained that the increase in cost led the Select Board to reconsider the use of ARPA money. Considerable discussion. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Question by Mr. Sharp about exactly what we mean by "pending CIPC recommendation."

**Article 14:** Ms. Chalfant decided to skip to Article 14, authorization to borrow funds to cover extraordinary road repair costs resulting from the summer floods. Mr. Brennan moved that the Committee recommend Article 14 up to \$2 million. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Considerable discussion about how much would be appropriate. The draft Warrant article did not

specify an amount. According to the report submitted, the town has already spent more than \$900,000 and the work is nowhere near complete. Mr. McDaniel said there is no way to predict the final cost, or how much the Commonwealth might pass to Deerfield via grants. He indicated that the Select Board is likely to request authority to borrow up to \$4 million. The motion passed, 5-0-0, as Ms. Brown had to leave early.

Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn. Ms. Chalfant seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 8:39 p.m.