

**Town of Deerfield Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting, February 22 2022
(Revised March 1)**

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

Also Present: Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Brenda Hill, Zachary Smith. Joint meeting with Select Board (hybrid in-person/virtual meeting.)

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Chalfant

- Dr. van der Velden moved to approve the minutes of the February 17 meeting. Mr. Paresky seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 (Mr. Olmstead had not arrived).

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend the Tilton Library budget (account 610-5400) for \$202,983. Seconded by Mr. Paresky

Ms. Bradbury-Carlin briefed us on Library budget changes: new Children's Librarian, added YA librarian position, deleted a part-time position. Book spending follows state requirements. Programs budget went up, offset by grants. Ms. Ness asked about fuel oil cost.

The motion passed 5-0-1.

Ms. Bradbury-Carlin noted that the Capital request for new library construction will have to come at a special town meeting after the state grant decision and revised building estimate this summer. Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Olmstead asked about design changes and ways to reduce the cost. Ms. Bradbury Carlin said she could find out after she meets with the project manager and architect at next CIPCC meeting.

- Mr. Paresky moved to recommend \$397,966 for the South County EMS Enterprise Fund, seconded by Beth Brown.

Mr. Smith reported that revenues went down ~~because of the pandemic~~ last year because of the pandemic but have rebounded. Pay rates increased to keep up with recommended levels and some positions shifted from overtime to full-time. Other expenses are flat.

Mr. Paresky asked if an increase in calls will raise expenses. Mr. Smith said they don't scale so much as staff. Mr. McDaniel asked if overtime can be reduced. Mr. Smith explained efforts to do so. Mr. Olmstead asked about ambulance replacement. Smith said they have been putting aside funds to replace the oldest unit soon. Mr. Olmstead asked about staffing. Smith explained they put 2 paramedics on every call.

Mr. Olmstead pointed out that the 23 percent SCEMS increase amounts to a substantial part of the total town increase margin, and asked if the Select Board are prepared for a Proposition 2 1/2 override vote.

Dr. van der Velden disclosed for the record that she is married to Mr. Smith.

The Committee voted to recommend the budget, 5-0-1.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$37,710 for the Treasurer/Collector expenses budget (account 145-5410). Mr. Paresky seconded. Ms. Hill explained it included biannual actuarial service expense

The Committee voted to recommend 6-0-0.

- Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the Town Clerk expenses budget (account 161-5410) for \$25,568. Mr. Paresky seconded. Ms. Hill explained increase as due to extra elections this year.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

- Dr. van der Velden moved that we recommend \$623,521 for Franklin County regional retirement assessment (account 911-5400). Mr. Cambias seconded. This cost is basically mandatory so there was little discussion.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

- Dr. van der Velden moved that we recommend the Workers Compensation budget (account 912-5400) for \$40,928. Seconded by Mr. Paresky. Ms. Hill said in the past expenditures came in lower than budgeted amounts.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

- Dr. van der Velden moved that we approve the Unemployment Insurance expenditure of \$27,000 (account 913-5400). Seconded by Mr. Paresky. This amount is the same as the past two years.

The motion passed 6-0-0

- Mr. Cambias moved to recommend spending \$310,939 for Group Insurance (account 914-5400). Dr. van der Velden seconded. Ms. Hill stated there have been no rate increases, so the increase is from new employees.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend spending \$635,418 for school Group Insurance (account 914-5410). Mr. Olmstead seconded the motion. Ms. Hill noted this is a decrease of 3 percent due to reduced staffing. Mr. Wolfram asked if teacher insurance could be part of the school budget. Apparently this has been requested before but never acted on.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

- Dr. van der Velden moved to recommend \$103,386 for Medicare insurance (account 916-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded. No discussion.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

- Mr. Cambias moved to adjourn. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Passed unanimously by acclamation. Ms. Chalfant adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m.