

**RTM Finance Committee Meeting**

**March 23, 2021**

**COVID-19 Appropriation #2**

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Jeff Wieser, Chair; Jessica Bram, Seth Braunstein; Rick Jaffe; Christine Meiers Schatz; Lauren Soloff; Cathy Talmadge

**Other Town Officials Present:** Gary Conrad, Finance Director; Harris Falk, RTM; Sal Liccione, RTM

The RTM Finance Committee met to consider the following:

**“Upon the request of the Recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Finance Director, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$380,000 from the General Fund Balance to the COVID Accounts 10101980 – Project 10004. The prior appropriation of \$400,000 that was approved on July 8, 2020 has been exhausted. The additional funds will cover costs for protective devices, sanitizing, legal fees, signage, and employee testing.”**

Finance Director Gary Conrad discussed the need for the second COVID related appropriation covering the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. He noted that a significant portion of this additional appropriation was for the testing of Town Hall employees. Upon the recommendation of the town’s Safety Officer and the Health District, the testing protocol in place provides for weekly testing of 10% of the Town Hall employees. He noted that the testing protocol may be revised for new summer employees potentially resulting in higher than anticipated expenses. In addition, he made note of the fact that the testing protocol would not change as a result of vaccination status. Mr. Conrad also stated that the appropriation was necessary to cover supplies such as masks, gloves, and hand-sanitizer, as well as a sensor for temperature taking at the Town Hall entry.

He noted that an application has been submitted to FEMA for reimbursement of qualified expenses. Based on FEMA reimbursement guidelines, he is hopeful that the town will receive 100% funding for eligible expenses, in the total amount of \$780,000.00.

There was a brief discussion regarding increased legal expenses due to the necessary interpretation of various executive orders, such as those impacting restaurants. One Finance Committee member requested a copy of the redacted itemized legal bills arguing that in order for the RTM to fulfill its fiduciary duty as a funding body the Finance Committee must have access to the itemized bills. The itemized bill related to the COVID-19 expenses was subsequently submitted to the Finance Committee.

A motion in favor of supporting the requested appropriation was made and seconded, and passed unanimously, 7 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Soloff

RTM District 9