

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September, 14 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman; Susan Marks; Christopher (Kip) Hall; Gerald Nielsen; E. Reilly Tierney

STAFF: Kathleen Clarke Buch, Town Administrator; W. Lee Palmer, Human Resources Director; David Knauf, Health Department; Ed Gentile, Department of Public Works.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:05. She noted that Whitney Ball, although not able to stay for the meeting, had left some decals and information on the “Drop it and Drive,” a campaign Ms. Ball had started to prevent cellular phone use while driving. She said she hoped Ms. Ball could attend a future meeting.

She asked for a motion to change the agenda so “Item B” could be considered first so it could be walked down to the Rules Committee.

- ** MR. HALL MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO DISCUSS “ITEM B” AHEAD OF OTHER AGENDA ITEMS.**
- ** MR. TIERNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

b) Discuss and Take Action on a Tentative Agreement Between Darien Public Works Union and the Town of Darien.

Mr. Palmer went through the basic aspects of the agreement, noting in particular, noting salary adjustments were within negotiated settlements and savings in health insurance and benefits costs. He said it was a good settlement for the town and fair and equitable for employees. Ms. Buch said the increase from the old contract to new contract in fiscal year 2016 is about \$90,000 would drop to about \$40,000 in subsequent years. There was some discussion about how insurance rates had not been definitely determined and Ms. Buch said there may be further savings once the exact numbers were solidified.

- ** MR. HALL MOVED TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DARIEN PUBLIC WORKS UNION REPRESENTING PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES WITH REFERRAL OF THE SAME TO THE LEGISLATIVE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR A REPORT AND**

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING, AS THE DARIEN LEGISLATIVE
BODY FOR FINAL ACTION.**

- ** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORT

Report from the Health Department Comprehensive Beach Water Quality Report

Mr. Knauf spoke to the Report on Beach Water Quality. He said he was aware Selectman Stevenson had received an email stating Darien beaches ranked in the lowest quarter of 208 beaches based on "Save the Sound" ratings. Based on data, which was supplied by the down, "Save the Sound" had given Darien a "C" rating. Mr. Knauf disputed these findings, noting that the town took water samples after rainfall, when the most bacteria were likely to be present, and that these statistics had skewed the results. He noted as a matter of caution beaches had been closed for 3 days this summer due to heavy rain, and not because any dangerous conditions were discovered. He said if the data was interpreted correctly Peat Tree point would receive a "B+" and Weed Beech would receive an "A" rating. He noted further tests were being done to determine the actual origin of the bacteria found in water samples. There was some further discussion of how the data was gathered and analyzed. Mr. Knauf said he thought the "Save the Sound," website was excellent, although the data was skewed, and that most towns did not test water right after it rains. First Selectman Stevenson said it was important for the public to understand the town took water quality seriously and did regular testing and comparisons from town to town were not the same due to differences in testing processes. Mr. Knauf said further information would be gained from the DNA testing of water samples.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson reported as follows:

- Welcome to Kate Buch as the Town of Darien's Town Administrator. Kate brings 3 decades of experience in Finance and municipal operations to her new position and, although we went through an exhaustive national recruitment process, Kate was the unanimous choice of the Board of Selectmen. Her years of experience with the Town of Darien provide a seamless transition into her new position and her excellent credentials will help maintain the high standards we have set for fiscal control and sound operations management.
- Wednesday September 23rd there will be a public information meeting regarding the CTDOT platform replacement project planned for the Noroton Heights Train Station. To accommodate commuters, the meeting will begin at 7:30 pm here in Room 206 but plans

will be available starting at 7 pm should members of the public wish to look at plans before the meeting. Plans will also be posted on the town website when they are available.

- The downtown parking study should be completed very soon. I've asked Jeremy to arrange a presentation to this board by October 5 or 19 so this board has time to take action on high priority action items before a new board is seated.
- Introduce the idea of requesting the RTM research and discuss possible Blight Ordinance.

The Selectman agreed it would be advisable to consider a Blight Ordinance. Ms. Marks noted there were also problems due to overgrowth on roads at times. First Selectman Stevenson said overgrowth issues should be referred to the DPW.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch said she had a good first day as Town Administrator.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

Mr. Knauf said the grant would be for a 2 year period of approximately \$15,000 per year for a public health emergency representative to work with the COG and represent Darien's interests. He said the individual now in the position had been working for several years and doing an excellent job.

a) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Approving the Acceptance of the Public Health Emergency Access Grant.

**** MR. HALL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:
WHEREAS THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROVIDES GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY; AND WHEREAS THE TOWN OF DARIEN HAS APPLIED FOR AND HAS BEEN AWARDED A GRANT OF \$31,024 FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WISHES TO SECURE SUCH GRANT FUNDING. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS JAYME STEVENSON, FIRST SLECTMAN TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT JAYME STEVENSON, FIRST SELECTMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE, EXECUTE AND APPROVE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN, ANY AND ALL CONTRACTS OR AMENDMENTS THEREOF WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS GRANT (CONTRACT LOG #2016-1014)**

**** MR. TIERNY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c) Discuss and Take Action on the Transfer of Care, Custody and Control of the Property at 32 Hoyt St. to the Board of Education and referral of the same to the RTM.

Ms. Stevenson said this property transfer was now approved by the BOE and the Ms. Buch and the BOE were working on the final details for the Leroy Ave. transfer.

**** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:
WHEREAS, PROPERTY LOCATED AND KNOWN AS 32 HOYT STREET IS
OWNED BY THE TOWN OF DARIEN; AND WHEREAS SAID PROPERTY**

WAS

**PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE WHICH HAS
NOW BEEN DEMOLISHED; AND WHEREAS SAID PROPERTY IS DIRECTLY
ADJACENT TO THE HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; AND WHEREAS, IT
IS THE DESIRE OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN TO TRANSFER THE CARE,
CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY AT 32 HOYT STREET TO
THE DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION; NOW THEREFORE IT BE AND IT IS
HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY
AUTHORIZES THE TRANSFER OF CARE, CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF 32
HOYT STREET TO THE DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL
PURPOSES AND REFERS SAME TO THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN
MEETING OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

**** MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Marks asked about the exact custody of the land transfers, if the town had actually took ownership of the properties now being transferred back to the BOE. First Selectman Stevenson said she would find out.

d) Transfer

Mr. Gentile spoke about the Facility Management software saying the DPW was trying to maintain facilities In House. He said at present the BOE was using "School Dude" software and liked it. He said he had quoted the numbers for the software to the Town Administrator initially without knowing the complete cost. There was some further discussion as to "School Dude" and "DPW" software communication.

**** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFER:**

Public Works:

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

| <u>From</u> | | <u>To</u> | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Acct. No. Amount | Acct. Name | Amount | Acct. No. | Acct. Name | |
| 30448004 -915906 | Leroy West Garage Study | \$3,300 | 30447014-916015 | Facility Management Software | \$3,300 |
| | Total: | \$3,300 | Total: | \$3,300 | |

**** MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Gentile also noted the Hoyt Street demolition was complete and he would also check on the Edgerton demolition which was taking a bit longer than expected, perhaps do to workers sorting material onsite.

AGENDA REVIEW

The Parking Study and a report on 35 Leroy will be up in future Agenda.

Mr. Tierney asked if there could be discussion of the Corbin Street development which is being considered by Planning and Zoning. He said it seemed to be an important development in part due to parking issues. There was some further discussion of the Selectman's role in proposal and some thought the Selectman's input might be premature. Mr. Tierney noted it might relate to the Board due to the number of parking spots. Other members thought the public parking may not be part of the current proposal. First Selectman Stevenson said she had spoken to the developer although it might make the best sense to wait until there was a more formal proposal on the table.

There was some discussion about the proposed Noroton Heights DOT platform project and whether it would include a new station and pedestrian walkover. First Selectman Stevenson said she had been lobbying for a new station and pedestrian walkway and would appreciate members attending the upcoming meeting in support of the more comprehensive project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of August 24, 2015

One change was noted:

Page 1, first sentence, change the date from “August 3,” to “August 24.”

- ** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 24th, AS AMENDED.**
- ** MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Regular Meeting of August 24, 2015

A few changes were noted:

Page 1, first paragraph “jurist diction” changed to “jurisdiction.”

Page 1, and Page 2, first paragraph, John Ryan should be noted as builder’s representative and not “architect.”

Page 1, first paragraph, “Leroy Street,” to “Leroy Avenue.”

Page 1, and Page 2, first paragraph, change the word “building,” to the word “property,” throughout.

Add the appointment of Audrey Weil to the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters for a 1-year term beginning on January 1 2015 and expiring on December 31, 2015.

- ** MR. TIERNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE APOINTMENT OF AUDREY WEIL TO THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS FOR A 1-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2015 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.**
- ** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** MR. TIERNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 24th, AS AMENDED.**
- ** MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HALL MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Lund
Telesco Secretarial Services