

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**February 12, 2014**

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Hall, Marks, Nielsen, and Tierney.

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a) Discuss and Take Action on 2014-2015 Annual Budget Revisions

First Selectman Stevenson began the discussion on revisions to the budget by noting that the capital request for a new vehicle for the Building Department was cut with the plan to re-use a Police vehicle which would have been traded in. She added that consideration was given to cutting a Police vehicle, but noted concerns over the future impact of delaying a car and the Board of Finance-approved vehicle replacement plan.

First Selectman Stevenson noted the effort to mitigate tax increases and the Town was able to make cuts to the budget, however the Board of Education added to the Superintendent's Proposed Budget. Short of cutting services, First Selectman Stevenson felt the Board did a good job.

Mr. Nielsen stated that the budget is always a difficult process, but it resulted in a responsible budget which did not delay critical projects nor cut services.

Mr. Tierney stated that he always supported the Town budget when he was on the RTM, however this process was difficult. He noted that fiscal responsibility was important to him. He hoped other items raised during the review process might be taken up by the Board of Finance. He stressed a concern about the impacts of revaluation and was not sure he could support the budget based on the resulting mill rate. He was concerned about property owners with lower values.

First Selectman Stevenson noted that based on information from the Assessor, those seeing an increase would have a house value of \$7 million and higher.

Ms. Marks felt that the Town budget was "skin and bones" and was not sure where more cuts could come from, however she was open to more discussion regarding budget cuts. Her priorities were health and safety, maintenance and items with a large impact on residents.

Mr. Hall expressed a desire for more public input on services that were wanted. He added that in speaking with some residents they could not live with a large tax increase. His top priority was health and safety, but added that his concern is the price to the taxpayer. As a result, Mr. Hall stated that he was going to vote against the budget.

The Board then began a discussion over possible cuts and a list of items which were reviewed earlier in the budget review process and other cuts which might make it possible for all Board members to support the budget. The discussion focused on civilian dispatch and the radio improvement project. Mr. Hall and Mr. Tierney suggested that they could support the budget if those items were cut or if the radio project was financed differently. The merits of those two items were reviewed. Discussion ended with the Board reaching a consensus to cut the civilian dispatch expenses from the budget.

It was reported to the Board that the one additional cut of \$92, 102 would result in Town Operating expenses of \$30,878,125 or an increase of 4.33% and the Total General Fund expenditures for the Town would be \$44,685,190 or an increase of 5.22%.

- b) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution to approve the 2014-2015 Annual Budget and Six-Year Capital Plan and submitting the same to the Board of Finance for their consideration

Mr. Nielsen moved, and Ms. Marks seconded, a resolution which read:

**WHEREAS**, since its presentation on January 27, 2014, the Board of Selectmen have reviewed and evaluated the Town Administrator's Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2014-15 and the six-year capital plan; and

**WHEREAS**, following completion of this review a number of changes and modifications have been made to the budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby approve the modified annual budget for 2014-2015 and the six-year capital plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2014-2015 budget and six-year capital plan be submitted to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

**GENERAL FUND**

General Operating Fund	\$30,878,125
Debt Service	11,746,099

Draft to be Approved by BOS  
Board of Selectmen Minutes  
February 12, 2014

Transfers out to Other Funds	<u>2,060,966</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$44,685,190
<b><u>OTHER FUNDS</u></b>	
Sewer Fund	\$3,293,139
Parking Fund	\$779,000
Reserve Fund	\$2,061,955

The resolution was adopted in a 5-0 vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Karl F. Kilduff  
Town Administrator