

TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2013

ATTENDANCE: Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman; David Campbell;  
John Lundeen; Gerald Nielsen

STAFF: Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** on Possible Changes to Transfer Station Fees

Ms. Stevenson recapped for the public the proposed fees.

Ms. Dot Kelly, Lake Drive asked about the senior fees with a hauler. Ms. Stevenson said that the fee was \$40.00. Ms. Kelly said that it currently is free and that she misinformed the Board as to the current policy. A lengthy discussion about the fees ensued.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Discuss and Take Action on Possible Changes to Transfer Station Fees**

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE TRANSFER STATION FEES:**

- **RESIDENTIAL PERMIT FEES FOR RESIDENTS WITHOUT A HAULER INCREASE FROM \$110 TO \$120**
- **RESIDENTIAL PERMIT FEES FOR RESIDENTS WITH A HAULER INCREASE FROM \$34 TO \$40**
- **THE COST OF A THIRD RESIDENTIAL PERMIT STICKER WILL BE \$40**
- **PERMIT FEES FOR SENIORS AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT A HAULER WILL BE \$50. THIS FEE APPLIES TO ADDITIONAL STICKERS PURCHASED BY SENIORS AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

- **PERMIT FEES FOR SENIORS AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH A HAULER WILL BE \$40. THIS FEE APPLIES TO ADDITIONAL STICKERS PURCHASED BY SENIORS AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**
- **COMMERCIAL TIPPING FEES FOR GRASS CLIPPINGS INCREASE FROM \$55/TON TO \$85/TON**
- **COMMERCIAL TIPPING FEES FOR LEAVES INCREASE FROM \$55/TON TO \$70/TON**
- **COMMERCIAL TIPPING FEES FOR WOODCHIPS INCREASE FROM \$40/TON TO \$70/TON**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **REPORT from Board of Education Central Office/Mather Center Building Committee**

Mr. Campbell reported that things are moving quickly. The asbestos abatement will begin on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the schedule is that it will be completed by mid October.

**4. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

Ms. Stevenson read the following report:

- On March 27, John Lundeen and I attended a meeting of interested parties to health of Holly Pond hosted at Sound Waters. There is renewed interest in seeking information and ways to improve the health of this water body. Senator Carlo Leone has been an active participant in the pursuit for funding. Holly Pond has been studied and various projects proposed for 35 years. This is a great opportunity to partner with Stamford and the DEEP to bring a tangible project closer to implementation. Funding is of course the key and I look forward to working with our legislators to support our efforts.
- I attended the kickoff event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Stamford on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> sponsored by The Center and the City of Stamford.
- Kim Huffard, our new Police Commissioner was sworn in and attended her first Commission meeting on 4/3.
- BOE and BOS had our final Q & A with the Board of Finance on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – BOS will vote on their budget tomorrow night.
- Attended the BOE Facilities and Capital Committee meeting on 4/2. The BOE is coming closer to a decision regarding the focus of their facility needs. I anticipate a decision regarding the Edgerton Property to be forthcoming very shortly.

## 5. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Kilduff reported that he has had on-going discussions with FEMA regarding funding a generator. He said that their staff has been very helpful. He updated the Board on the status of the LIS Futures Fund grant application. He said that they will roll out employee education relative to their health benefits. Open enrollment will be in June.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Walter J. Casey, Webster Valley Road read the following statement:

Subject: EMS Review Committee Report to Board of Selectmen Submitted 2/15/13 and presented on 2/25/13.

Introduction: The following is a critique of the above mentioned report. This critique deals only with the contents, or lack thereof, of the Committee's report and not with issues relating to FOI laws.

Depth of Review: the report gives the clear impression that the review consisted of asking Mr. Ron Hammer, Director of Post 53, for information and accepting his responses without serious questioning. This is completely unacceptable.

Adequate: Dr. Cara characterized Darien's paramedic response system as "adequate." Since when has Darien accepted adequate as a standard? Can you imagine the outcry if the Darien Board of Education set an objective for Darien schools to be "adequate?" We have accepted and continue to accept adequate in the critical arena of emergency medical response. Most of us did not arrive in Darien because we were adequate in whatever our chosen fields. In reality, Cara may have used "adequate" as a CYA term. He and the rest of the Committee may know that the Post 53 system is inadequate but just do not want to confront the powerful Post 53. The Committee may be trying to avoid potential legal liabilities down the road. Good luck with that.

Math: In the interest of time, I am going to briefly summarize the detailed math section shown below. In a letter to the editor of the *Darien Times* last May, I

showed that a weighted average of response times when paramedics were called immediately and when they were called after Post arrived on scene did not match the overall paramedic response time. There was no reaction from Post 53 the Committee or the Board of Selectmen. A similar analysis with the current report indicates that when paramedics are called immediately, they arrive on scene from Stamford only 1 minute and 47 seconds after Post. This is very hard to believe.

In April of last year the Committee also presented a report to this Board. In that report, the Committee stated that 25% of all paramedic calls occurred after Post was already on the scene. The Committee went on to state that when paramedics were delayed and not called until after Post was on the scene the response time roughly doubled from 9 – 10 minutes when paramedics were called immediately to 18 – 21 minutes when paramedics were delayed. This should mean an average paramedic response time of 12.75 minutes calculated as follows:  $(.75 \times 10) + (.25 \times 21)$ . Note that if 25% of the paramedic calls occur after Post is on the scene, then 75% of the calls must occur when paramedics are called immediately. Rather than an average paramedic response time of 12.75, the report states that paramedic response times ranged from 8.4 minutes to 10.12 minutes from April 2011 through February, 2012. In a letter to the editor published in *Darien Times* of 5/17/12, I pointed out that these data were inconsistent but received no response from the Selectmen, the Committee or Post 53.

In the most recent report, the Committee states that there were 370 calls to Post 53 in Q4 2012 of which 93 involved paramedics. Of these 93 paramedic calls, 13 or 14% involved paramedics being called after Post was on the scene. In the Committee's prior report (see above), we learned that the paramedic response times after Post arrives were twice as long as when paramedics are called immediately. Therefore let us assume that  $x$  represents the paramedic response time when paramedics are called immediately and  $2x$  represents the response time when paramedics are called after Post arrives. The report states that the average paramedic response time is 8 minutes, 54 seconds, or 8.9 minutes. Therefore, the paramedic response time when paramedics are called immediately is 7.8 minutes or 7 minutes, 48 seconds. The formula is:  $.86x + .14(2x) = 8.9$ . The report states that the average Post 53 response time in Q4 2012 was 6 minutes 1 second. We are being asked to believe that it takes paramedics from Stamford only 1 minute and 47 seconds longer (7 minutes, 48 seconds minus 6 minutes, 1 second) than Post 53 to reach an emergency scene in Darien.

These numbers do not appear remotely plausible yet they elicited no questions from you, Darien's Selectmen.

Response Times: Dr. Cara stated that paramedic response times to Darien are within national standards of 8 – 12 minutes. Of course, Dr. Cara did not mention that Stamford EMS added a paramedic unit when response times went above 8 minutes. The *Darien Times* recently pointed out a FEMA study of the eight minute standard as "useful and appropriate." There was a joking mention of New York City response times. Interestingly, just before the Committee's presentation to this board, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that New York City's medical emergency response time as 6 minutes, 31 seconds during 2012. The *Darien Times* also reported that the American Heart Association states that brain death starts to happen within four to six minutes after a heart attack. The Times goes on to report that the chances of survival are reduced 7 – 10% with every minute that passes without defibrillation and advanced life support (read paramedics). The Committee and this Board have accepted and continue to accept slower paramedic response times because they are "adequate." We should not compare ourselves to communities all across the US including rural communities and others which are completely different than Darien. The Board is agreeing with: maybe slower isn't better but it's adequate.

Mutual Aid: the Committee and this Board seemed very proud that Post 53 responded to 96 calls to Norwalk and Stamford in 2012. Since both of these cities have paramedics, neither the Committee nor the Board thought to ask whether this meant that the city seeking Post's help could not respond to Darien with paramedics because all of their paramedics were busy when they were asking for our help. In other words, there was at least 96 times when Darien had reduced or no paramedic coverage in 2012. The report states that Darien requested no mutual aid in 2012. Apparently the 506 calls for paramedics in 2012 do not count as mutual aid.

Disparity: There was no serious questioning of the disparity in paramedic coverage across Darien with the eastern section of town exposed to much longer response times. Apparently, the Committee and this Board simply does not care about what happens to victims in the sections of Darien that are more remote from Stamford. In these eastern sections of Darien, the response times are much longer.

Glenbrook Out: There was no discussion about what happens when the Glenbrook Stamford paramedic unit is out on another call and a paramedic unit

farther from Darien has to be dispatched. Once again, the Committee and this Board simply do not care. You are preoccupied with issues more important than life and death.

The Dos: the Committee lists additional work it plans to do. All of these items should have been done by now.

Measurement of Response Time: the Board seemed proud that response times were measure from the time when the 911 call was received. The Board forgot to consider the time before the call is made when, very often, serious delays occur because of confusion and panic. The relevant response time is from onset of the medical emergency to the time when paramedics are on the scene. We can't measure the time before the 911 call is made, but it is real and needs to be offset by faster response times after the 911 call is received.

Dead: Apparently, we are willing to take Mr. Hammer's word that nothing could have been done for those victims defined as "dead on scene." I am not sure who declares that someone is dead. In addition, I would be concerned about what condition patients are in when they arrive at the hospital. How could their condition be improved by faster paramedic response times? The whole issue was simply ignored.

Summary: The Committee's true mission is to shield Post 53 from real analysis. It is criminal that you, the Board of Selectmen, do not take the health and safety of the citizens, you were elected to represent, more seriously.

Stay tuned.

Ms. Stevenson said that this will be discussed with the EMS Review Committee.

There were no other speakers.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS** (continued)

### **b) Discuss and Take Action on Acceptance of a Gift of \$3,550 towards three (3) iPads for the Office of the Fire Marshal from the Darien Fireman's Foundation**

Robert Buch, Fire Marshall explained the item. He said that the Darien Firefighters Foundation is a private foundation that was founded 8 – 10 years ago to support the Darien Firefighters. They do their own fundraising.

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**  
**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

c) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Gift of \$16,635 towards software upgrades and software training for the Office of the Fire Marshal from the Darien Fireman's Foundation and Referral of Same to the RTM

Robert Buch, Fire Marshall explained the item. He said that this gift will allow them to upgrade the software they are currently using.

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**  
**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Stevenson thanked the Darien Fireman's Foundation for their generosity.

d) Discuss and Take Action on Referral of Proposed Charter Change regarding Canvas of Electors to the RTM

Ms. Stevenson explained that this change will make the Darien Charter consistent with the State Charter.

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**  
**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

e) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Authorizing and Directing the First Selectman to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Darien Regarding the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**  
**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

f) Transfers

Public Works Department

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFER**

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

From:			To:		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
1070400- 86600	Contingency	\$48,000	30442144- 913403	Safety Upgrade OKHS	\$48,000
TOTAL	\$48,000		TOTAL	\$48,000	

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Stevenson reviewed upcoming agenda items. She said that they are working on a presentation by Post 53 to this Board in May.

**9. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

Consider and take action on the following re-appointments:

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENTS:**

- a) Erika Morris to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2012 and expiring on March 31, 2015.
- b) Cheryl Green to the Architectural Review Board for a 4-year term beginning on July 1, 2009 and expiring on June 30, 2013.
- c) Tom Valentino to the Commission on Aging for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2012 and expiring on March 31, 2015.
- d) Jennifer Geddes to the Commission on Aging for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2013 and expiring on March 31, 2016.
- e) Holly Hawes to the Human Services Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2012 and expiring on March 31, 2015.

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Consider and take action on the following appointments:

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:**

- a) Mark Crouch to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2012 and expiring on March 31, 2015.
- b) Valerie Cruice to the Architectural Review Board for a 4-year term beginning on July 1, 2011 and expiring on June 30, 2015.
- c) Sueann Schorr to the Monuments & Ceremonies Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2012 and expiring on November 30, 2015.
- d) Marianne Wadleigh to the Beautification Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2010 and expiring on November 30, 2013.
- e) Kieran Cavanna to the Youth Commission for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2013 and expiring on March 31, 2016.

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Regular Meeting of March 25, 2013

The following corrections were made to the minutes of March 25, 2013:

Page 1: correct spelling of Anthony Homicki's name

Page 5: The first two motions should read as follows:

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:  
THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVES SETTLEMENT OF  
THE CASE OF GEORGE D. SULLIVAN V. TOWN OF DARIEN (FST – CV-05-  
4005789-S) TO AMEND THE FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR THE LAND VALUE  
ONLY TO \$1,550,000 FROM \$2,879,200 WITH NO CHANGE TO THE  
BUILDING VALUE FOR THE GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2008 THROUGH  
OCTOBER 1, 2012 AND A WAIVER INTEREST FO THE GRAND LIST OF  
OCTOBER 1, 2002 IN ACCORDANCE WITH A STIPULATING JUDGMENT**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN HEREBY  
AUTHORIZES THE SETTLEMENT IN THE SUIT KNOWN AS THE ESTATE OF  
GUIZAN V. TOWN OF DARIEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$437,500 TO BE PAID  
BY THE TOWN'S INSURANCE CARRIER WITH NO FURTHER LIABILITY OR  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TOWN  
\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED  
\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **11. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

April 9, 2013 Joint Department Heads Meeting at 8:30 a.m.  
April 9, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.  
April 9, 2013 Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
April 10, 2013 Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
April 10, 2013 Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
April 11, 2013 Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Board of Selectmen  
April 22, 2013 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

### **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

(Any items added to the agenda require a two-thirds vote.)

There was no other business discussed this evening.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services

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