

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Stevenson; Gerald Nielsen; David Bayne;  
Dave Campbell; John Lundeen

**STAFF:** Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

**OTHER:** Jim Cameron; David Kahn; Peter Firmin; Ken Janette;  
Baye Larson; Jim Fletcher; Holly Schultz;  
Robert Steeger, Director of Public Works;  
Darren Oustafine, Assistant Director of Public Works

**CALL TO ORDER**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

1st Selectwoman Stevenson expressed condolences on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Darien to the family of Cece Lefferts, who was a tireless volunteer in many organizations. She also mentioned that Kiki Carpen will be retiring from her position of Executive Director of the Community Fund effective March 2, 2012. She said that Ms. Carpen was a dedicated employee and she wished her well.

1st Selectwoman Stevenson issued a public plea for volunteers to join the Monuments and Ceremonies Committee, which is in the process of planning the Memorial Day Parade. She said anyone interested can contact the Democratic or Republican Town Committees or the 1st Selectmen's office to set up an interview.

1st Selectwoman Stevenson said she had attended a ceremony yesterday in Stamford, organized by Congressman Himes, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Tucson, AZ shooting in which Congresswoman Giffords was injured. She thanked Congressman Himes for putting the ceremony together, which was an effort to acknowledge the need to undertake a more civil and respectful dialogue. She has signed on to the National Conference of Mayors and First Selectmen Civility Board and plans to run her administration in the next two years in that spirit.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kilduff said he has provided an additional transfer request from the Public Works Department. He reminded the Board that there will be a Performance Measures Meeting in Room 206 on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

1st Selectwoman Stevenson reminded the Board that there will be a Joint Department Heads Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jim Cameron, Program Director for Channel 79, reviewed the results of the recently completed viewer survey, which will be released to the media tomorrow. He said Channel 79 finished as the third top-rated source of information about town government, following the Darien Times and the Darien Patch. The Board of Selectmen meetings are the most watched, followed by Planning & Zoning and then RTM meetings. He explained the demographics, saying that 21% of the audience is age 35-50; 41% is 50-65; and 1/3 of the audience is over age 65. He said the survey results will be posted on the town website.

Mr. David Kahn, 20 Barringer Road, RTM District 1 Chairman Public Works, said he is speaking this evening as an advocate for safety issues in his neighborhood, specifically the sidewalk issue on Hoyt Street. He is convinced that someone will get hurt while walking on Hoyt Street unless sidewalks or walking paths are installed. He said the only solution so far gaining any support is adding additional lighting, which he feels is inadequate and will not address the speeding motorists, motorists using cell phones, pedestrians walking along the street without sidewalks, pedestrians crossing the street to walk against traffic, and the lack of crosswalks. He provided some statistics, saying that the chances of a pedestrian surviving a collision at 40+ mph is 15%. He also mentioned that over 40% of pedestrian fatalities occur where there are no sidewalks. He urged the Board to have sidewalks and crosswalks installed before someone gets hurt.

Mr. Peter Firmin, 64 Country Club Road, said he has grave concerns about the safety on Hoyt Street. In the last two weeks, he said he has seen numerous motorists speeding and using cell phones. He said Darien's Police Department has been out in full force pulling motorists over. He said it is an extremely dangerous street, because it is a major north/south artery between the Merritt Parkway and the Post Road. Motorists using Hoyt Street disobey the speed limit and state laws, perhaps because they don't live in the area. The neighborhood residents who commute to the city are faced with this dangerous situation two times a day. He said he spoke to a few of his neighbors, and every one of them is in support of sidewalks being installed. There are more than 28 families that live on Country Club Road, Barringer Road, and Leeds Lane, and most of them have school-aged children that can't walk on Hoyt Street between the roads mentioned above because of the safety risk. As those children get older, they too could become commuters and be faced with the same dangerous situation.

Mr. Ken Janette, a resident of Darien for 18 years, spoke in support of the safety project. He is a former commuter and said it was dangerous then because of the high slope and narrow boundary of the road that would force pedestrians to walk out into the road to avoid any hazards on the path. He said he now walks the same road to go into the City with his grandson and finds the same dangerous situation. He said he finds it equally dangerous to be a motorist on that stretch of road due to commuters walking. He said Darien should not have a safety situation in such sad condition for this long. He feels that the proposed lighting situation will only light up the safety hazards. The dangerous situation continues to worsen as the number of motorists and pedestrians using Hoyt Street have increased over the last few years. He feels that the addition of sidewalks could enhance the value of residents' homes and property taxes. He said this project is long on aesthetics and short on safety, and it should get a higher priority.

Ms. Baye Larson, 27 Barringer Road, spoke in favor of the sidewalk issue. She and her husband moved here in May and are the newest neighbors to be enjoying the walk to train station, which they found to be a huge asset in buying their house. She mentioned that she has two flashing lights on her purse, and uses an additional flashlight for safety, to accommodate her walk to the train station. She can't walk her young son to the train station, instead of driving him, due to the safety issues. A neighbor's 22 year child can't walk to the train station to get to their job in NYC due to the safety issues. She said that she works in municipal finance and is well aware of the budget constraints that towns and cities are experiencing. This project is a long-term investment for the town that she feels will pay off. Having access to a SPUR line and easy access for commuters is a huge asset for Darien.

Mr. Jim Fletcher, 45 Barringer Road, spoke in favor of the sidewalk issue. He said several years ago, there was concern about the state of the Noroton Heights train station. He suggested that the money intended to improve the Noroton Heights train station could instead be used for the sidewalk project. He spoke before the Board of Selectmen six months ago about the possibility of a warning sign for people driving on Hoyt Street. The sign could read "Caution: Pedestrians Walking in Road". This could aid motorists who frequently use the road to exercise caution, as well as alert motorists using the road for the first time. He noted that a new stop sign recently installed near Holmes Court, a 10-house development, requires motorists to stop on Holmes Avenue. He urged the Board to have the sidewalks installed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

a) Discuss and Take Action on Charge for Advisory Commission on Communication

1st Selectwoman Stevenson thanked the Board for their careful edits to the draft, distributed at the last meeting. She said that as the Committee undertakes their charge, a result might be recommendations about whether the Selectmen are being appropriately served with their IT needs. She confirmed that there are a number of

people in the community that would like to be on the Committee, and she said that the people who previously served on both Committees will be asked to serve again. She also made a public plea to anyone interested in being on the new Committee to contact the RTC, DTC, or her office. She explained that it will be a 7 member committee, and two of those spots will be held by people that serve on the Area 9 Cable Council. She said that in addition to the 7 members, ex-officio members will include the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, the Town Administrator, the Director of IT, and any and all Department Heads who have direct involvement in communication and technology issues.

More discussion took place about the charge of the new Committee, and it was mentioned that the existing charge from the DGAT Committee is the charge that everyone currently has. It was also mentioned that the Police Department has some training videos, and there is no funding, personnel, or supplies for the new Committee to undertake producing training videos.

It was decided that the Board will obtain more information and input from the Government Access Committee before voting on this item.

b) Discuss Board of Selectmen Goal Setting

Mr. Kilduff provided copies of an overview that outlined how the Board could contemplate changing how they selected the goals in the past. He said the intent of the goal setting exercise is to better integrate the Board's work product with what the Administration is doing in order to better focus on the performance measures and the budget process. It was mentioned that another intent was to give the staff meaningful goals, perhaps 5 or 6 of them, and having a work product that lives beyond a once a year exercise. Mr. Kilduff said he would provide copies of national examples. Some discussion took place regarding the timing of the goal setting, and its role in conjunction with the upcoming budget meetings and performance measures.

c) Discuss Hoyt Street Sidewalk Follow-Up

Mr. Bob Steeger presented the information on the proposed lighting plan for Hoyt Street, from the south end of Leeds Lane. He said he and representatives from CL&P looked at a few scenarios, and he presented two of them. The first was to leave all of the existing 70 watt fixtures in place and add additional 150 watt fixtures to the poles that currently don't have light fixtures. This plan would increase the lighting significantly on that portion of Hoyt Street. The second plan would be to mix the lighting fixtures, with 70 watts, 100 watts, and 150 watts being put along the street. CL&P will replace, or upgrade, any lights on poles that the Town is already paying the charges for along that section of Hoyt Street. They will also change out existing lights and upgrade them, free of cost. The Town would only have to pay the monthly rate, which he thought would not be significant. He would make a formal application

to CL&P if the Board was in agreement with either one of the plans. He said that it would be a 6-8 week timeframe if approved. He said there was a concern about the proximity of some houses to the higher watt light fixtures. It was mentioned that this was a great way to begin increasing the safety measures along Hoyt Street, and at a relatively low cost.

Ms. Holly Schultz spoke of her concerns about being a resident on Hoyt Street, saying that they should light for pedestrians. She said that as a design professional, she felt the Town should be looking at this as a design project and not do pieces of it here and there. She felt that by lighting up Hoyt Street, making it similar to stadium lighting, would not make the neighbors happy. Instead, installing sidewalks, walking paths and/or well-lit and low-lit crosswalks would be a more viable solution. She asked if there were examples of this lighting elsewhere in Town so the neighbors could see it before it is installed.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Stevenson explained that this proposed lighting plan was the first step towards increasing the safety along Hoyt Street, and that it was not the only measure the Town was going to take. She said that she has another meeting with Mr. Joe Ouellette of the DOT to discuss the feasibility of the sidewalk issue. She said they will not move forward on this proposed lighting plan until everyone is satisfied.

d) Transfers

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD A TRANSFER REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SHUFFLE REFERENDUM.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Public Works:**

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

**From:**

<u>Acct. No</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Contingency	\$ 19,852
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,852</b>

**To:**

<u>Acct. No</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10107661-81003	Seasonal & Temp	\$ 6,175
10107661-81002	Part-Time	\$ 570
10107651-81002	ROV Part-Time	\$ 3,312
10107661-82001	Travel	\$ 72
10107661-82007	Prof. Services	\$ 3,400

10107661-82008	Printing	\$ 593
10107661-82026	Rental	\$ 500
10107661-82033	Program Expenses	\$ 1,400
10107661-83001	Office Supplies	\$ 560
10107661-83008	Food	\$ 1,139
10107661-83009	Small Tools	\$ 31
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,852</b>

- \*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$19,852 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCCOUNT TO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS: SEASONAL & TEMP, PART-TIME, ROV PART-TIME, TRAVEL, PROF. SERVICES, PRINTING, RENTAL, PROGRAM EXPENSES, OFFICE SUPPLIES, FOOD, AND SMALL TOOLS.**
- \*\* MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Public Works:**

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

**From:**

<u>Acct. No</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1070400-86600	Contingency Fund	\$ 4,231
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,231</b>

**To:**

<u>Acct. No</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10401011-81001	FT Salary	\$ 4,231
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,231</b>

It was recommended that this position be re-instated ASAP as there is a significant gap in service delivery.

- \*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$4,231 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND ACCOUNT TO THE FULL-TIME SALARY ACCOUNT.**
- \*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**AGENDA REVIEW**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Stevenson said that two items will be back on the agenda for the next meeting, the lighting scheme for Rt. 106, and the Charge to the Advisory Committee on Communication.

**APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS**

- \*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD TWO RE-APPOINTMENTS.**
- \*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Consider and take action on the following **re-appointments**:

- a) Jan Raymond to the Housing Authority for a 4-year term beginning on July 1, 2010 and expiring on June 30, 2015.

- \*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JAN RAYMOND TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A 4-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2010 AND EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2015.**
- \*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b) Marcia Meinerth to the Beautification Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2011 and expiring on November 30, 2014.

- \*\* MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MARCIA MEINERTH TO THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2014.**
- \*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c) Rocco Genovese to the Sewer Commission for a 3-year term beginning on January 1, 2012 and expiring on December 31, 2014.

- \*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF ROCCO GENOVESE TO THE SEWER COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2012 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2014.**
- \*\* MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- d) David Pollett to the Monuments & Ceremonies Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2011 and expiring on November 30, 2014.

- \*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF DAVID POLLETT TO THE MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION FOR A**

**3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2014.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Special Meeting of December 14, 2011

The changes to the Special Meeting of December 14, 2011 are as follows:

On page 1, and throughout, change “1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Stevenson” to “1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Stevenson”.

On page 1, and throughout, change “John and Todd McCluskey” to “John and Todd McClutchy”.

On page 1, under REPORT FROM WEED BEACH BUILDING COMMITTEE, the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence should read: “Mr. Ryan confirmed that the project was on schedule and on budget.”

On page 1, under REPORT FROM DARIEN HOUSING AUTHORITY ON ALLEN O’NEILL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, the entire report should read as follows:

“Ms. Jan Raymond came forward to give the Board an update on the Allen O’Neill re-development. The developer, Mr. Arthur Anderson, was present along with John and Todd McClutchy, whose firm is in partnership with Mr. Anderson’s company in the redevelopment of AON.

Mr. Anderson came forward and gave a run down on the number of apartments and buildings involved in the project, along with a brief overview of the location. The CHFA tax credit allocations have come through. These tax credits, (\$2.5 million) are in the process of being sold and equity is being raised to fund the redevelopment. The overall construction budget is approximately \$24 million. Discussion followed about the various aspects of the financing. Mr. Nielsen requested a copy of the financial information.

Mr. John McClutchy added that one part of the design was to incorporate LEEDS green technology to lower the energy costs for the units.

Construction drawings, financing arrangements and various other items are currently underway. Capital is available right now to start the project and the first phase is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2012.

Mr. Anderson narrated a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the financing and development timeline and milestones for the project. Several site plans and a chart showing the organizational structure of the entities involved in the redevelopment were included in the display.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Stevenson asked for a hard copy of the PowerPoint slides for the Board members. Mr. Anderson said that these would be provided. There will also be regular update meetings with the Housing Authority. The residents will be able to contact Mr. Anderson also.

Ms. Raymond thanked everyone for their hard work on this project.”

On page 2, under ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, change “provide” to “computerize”.

On page 5, under APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS, change “MR. BAYNE SECONDED” to “MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.”

- \*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2011 AS AMENDED.
- \*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Regular Meeting of December 19, 2011

The changes to the regular meeting of December 19, 2011 are as follows:

On page 1, under REPORT FROM REP. TERRIE WOOD ON RE-DISTRICTING, the sentence should read: “The population of the State of Connecticut is now 3,574,097, which means that each district should have 23,490 people.”

On page 1, under REPORT FROM REP. TERRIE WOOD ON RE-DISTRICTING, the 8<sup>th</sup> sentence should read: “The Committee wanted less than a 2-3% deviation from zero.”

On page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, add the following after the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence: “Mr. Bayne disagreed, saying that the Town has an obligation to protect pedestrians walking within its borders and that we know that pedestrians are walking along Hoyt Street in Darien to the Talmadge Hill station.”

- \*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2011 AS AMENDED.
- \*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**January 10, 2012**      **Board of Selectmen Joint Dept Heads Meeting at 8:30 a.m.**  
January 10, 2012      Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
January 10, 2012      Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.  
January 17, 2012      Regular Meeting of Board of Finance at 6:30 p.m.  
January 17, 2012      Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.  
January 18, 2012      Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
January 23, 2012      Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services