

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

**February 9, 2011**

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. In attendance were First Selectman Campbell, Selectmen Bayne, Nielsen, Stevenson and Sullivan. Also in attendance was Administrative Officer Karl Kilduff.

First Selectman Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a) Discuss and Take Action on 2011-2012 Annual Budget Revisions

Mr. Kilduff made note of the revised list of potential cuts to the budget located at each Selectman's seat.

Ms. Stevenson wished to discuss another cut that was not on the list. She questioned if the request for \$30,000 for a backstop was a new project or a previously deferred project. Mr. Kilduff noted that it was a new project that had not been deferred previously. Ms. Stevenson wished to have the project delayed for one year. The Board debated the need for the project and whether it was a required project or simply nice to have. The Board reached a consensus that the project should be cut from the Capital Plan and deferred.

Mr. Bayne asked about the two new cuts to Public Works full-time and the Equipment Reserve accounts. Mr. Kilduff noted a conversation between First Selectman Campbell and Public Works Director Steeger that the replacement loader could be deferred and he expressed the need for the account reduced some but enough to keep it functioning as a reserve account for future replacements. In response to the full-time reduction it was noted that after reviewing attendance records, it appeared as if the office could function with two part-time employees. It was also noted that the Board had acted on a number of transfers to provide for seasonal and temporary staff to provide office coverage.

The amounts to be funded in the budget were re-calculated to reflect the new reductions which resulted in a 3.98% increase to the Town side of the budget. Mr. Kilduff added that the increase could be mitigated further by the Board of Finance taking the recommendation from the Board of Selectmen to fund two storm water drainage projects from the Board of Finance Infrastructure Reserve. He continued, that if that were taken, the budget would actually only increase by 3.25%.

The Board had a general discussion expressing the desire to pull individual operating expense line items from the volunteer fire department grants to have them funded in the budget differently. Mr. Kilduff added that he could provide an analysis and a starting point for the discussion with funding scenarios.

- b) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution to approve the 2011-2012 Annual Budget and Six-Year Capital Plan and submitting the same to the Board of Finance for their consideration

First Selectman Campbell read the revised resolution into the record which stated:

**WHEREAS**, since its presentation on January 24, 2011, the Board of Selectmen have reviewed and evaluated the Administrative Officer's Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 and the six-year capital plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2011-2012 budget and six-year capital plan be submitted to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

**GENERAL FUND**

General Operating Fund	\$27,153,633
Debt Service	10,534,809
Transfers out to Other Funds	2,009,254
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$39,697,695</b>

**OTHER FUNDS**

Sewer Fund	2,938,857
Animal Control Fund	75,947
Parking Fund	668,341
Reserve Fund	1,945,402

Selectman Sullivan moved the motion, seconded by Selectman Stevenson.

Mr. Bayne wished to make a comment before the vote. He noted that the Board found little fat in the budget presented by the Administrative Officer and that sacrifices needed to made in order to make cuts. He added that while the budget was increasing, it was after years of reductions, included employee reductions, required volunteers to shoulder more of a burden

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and deferred long overdue capital projects. He did not feel that the Board should have left it to the Board of Finance to decide on the natural gas connection to the Town Hall, and that it was the Board of Selectmen's prerogative. He added that he would have voted to cut this project too. He highlighted as a positive funding for Hoyt Street sidewalk construction. He concluded by stating that the budget was a responsible spending plan and he hoped that the Board of Finance and the RTM would leave the budget as is.

Ms. Stevenson stated that she was glad staff made a number of hard decisions early in the budget and that cutting is like trying to get blood from a stone on the town side of the budget. She felt that the Board of Finance needed to look at systemic changes in how the town does business. She was proud of the budget and the Board did a great job. She concluded by noting that it is sad that some jobs were lost, but sometimes it is necessary.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the budget showed that the Board could work together. She felt that the Board has the same value set and works for the best interest of the town.

Mr. Nielsen echoed the comments of the other Board members. He thanked the Administrative Officer and Finance Director for the hard cutting at the start of the process. He added that painful decisions had to be made and were made.

The motion passed on a 5-0 vote

**ADJOURNMENT**

Selectman Bayne moved, seconded by Selectman Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting, which passed in a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karl F. Kilduff  
Administrative Officer