

## Draft Minutes 1

### Board of Finance Regular Meeting

September 21, 2010

Room 206-7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Murry Stegelmann at 7:32 PM. All members of the Board of Finance were present. Also present were First-Selectman David Campbell and Selectman Gerald Nielsen.

Reporters from the Daily Darien and the Darien Patch were present. Channel 79 was broadcasting the meeting.

#### Transfers over \$5000

First- Selectman David Campbell recounted the history of the Old Tokeneke Bridge. He explained that the bridge had been turned over by the state to the towns of Darien and Norwalk and that the bridge had become unusable and needed to be torn down. Norwalk has obtained permission from the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) to tear the bridge down. Accordingly, the Department of Public Works is requesting a transfer of \$65,430 from the Commercial Sidewalks account to the Old Tokeneke Bridge account. This amount constitutes Darien's one-half share of the demolition and removal.

Martha Banks made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded, and approved 7-0.

Liz Mao made a motion to go to new business. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

#### New Business

Police Building--The First- Selectman provided an update about the restart of the building and renovation of the Police Department's headquarters. Mr. Nielsen reported that next week the contracts would be reviewed and the project would be put out to bid in December with groundbreaking targeted for March 1.

Weed Beach—The Board of Selectmen is recommending to the Board of Finance that an additional one million dollars in bonding be added to the two million already approved for bonding. About \$300,000 has already been spent.

Selectwoman Jayme Stevenson arrived at 8:52 PM.

Following discussion about financing for Weed Beach, Liz Mao made a motion that the Board of Finance adopt the following : That it is the sense of the Board of Finance to obtain authorization from the RTM to bond for the full \$3.3 million dollars in costs for the Weed Beach project in order to complete it.

The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

First-Selectman David Campbell then reviewed the proposal to move the Board of Education to 35 Leroy and then renovate the Town Hall building to incorporate a new Community Center which would house the current senior Center activities. In conjunction with the renovation of Town Hall, a private group would be formed to raise the approximately \$5 million in funds needed to build a new swimming pool at the Town Hall. The pool operations are anticipated to be run by the YMCA. Mr. Campbell explained why he eliminated building a new Senior or Community Center on Edgerton Street. The reason is it would cost too much as an estimate in 2007 arrived at a figure of \$7 million dollars.

Mr. Campbell envisions using the Edgerton property for Senior Housing to be built by a private foundation.

The costs to move the BOE to the Library are estimated at \$1.6 Million dollars. Moving the Senior Center to Town Hall would require about \$1.4 million dollars. Total costs would amount to about \$4.5 million, and would include architectural fees of about \$275,000, and \$750, 000 for fixtures.

Mr. Campbell discussed the possible uses for the library property, including the possibility of moving the Probate Court and the Housing Authority.

Mr. Campbell stated that there would be two building committees set up for the projects as they are entirely separate. The BOS will be looking for two separate transfers for the architectural fees and hopes to start on the BOE transfer plans after the first of the year, and work on the “Mather Center” next fall after the BOE moves out.

Accordingly, the timeline requires that the projects be discussed with the RTM in October, hopefully obtaining appropriations for both projects in January 2011.

Chairman Murry Stegelmann asked Finance Director Kate Buch to rerun the debt scenarios with bonding for the two projects, as well as the full \$3.3 million for Weed Beach.

Members of the Board of Finance expressed their preference for the BOS to present one request for architectural fees for the interrelated projects, rather than two separate ones.

The Board thanked the First –Selectman for coming to explain the projects and the anticipated timeline for approvals.

The selectman left the meeting.

#### Financial Report

Kate Buch reported that the FY 2010 may end with an addition to the Fund Balance. This is due to reduced expenditures and an increase over budget of conveyance taxes and prior taxes owed. Ms. Buch quickly reviewed a few of the accounts, noting that software costs were running higher than expected.

#### Committee Reports

Gwen Mogenson reported that Channel 79 had received a grant to outfit Room 119 with a camera for broadcasting meetings.

#### Audit Committee

Jon Zagrodzky reported that the committee is working on making sure all its policies are in one place for reference.

Jon Zagrodzky made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Smith Mao, Clerk

