

**MINUTES  
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2019**

**RECEIVED  
FEB - 4 2019  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
DARIEN CT.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Representative Town Meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Donna Rajczewski, Town Clerk.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

From District I, there were 15 members present, 2 absent.  
From District II, there were 14 members present, 2 absent.  
From District III, there were 13 members present, 2 absent.  
From District IV, there were 14 members present, 2 absent.  
From District V, there were 16 members present, 2 absent.  
From District VI, there were 13 members present, 4 absent.

The absentees from District I were: Butler, Ezbiansky.  
The absentees from District II were: Cusack, Russell.  
The absentees from District III were: Mitchell, Washecka.  
The absentees from District IV were: Hardison, Whittier.  
The absentees from District V were: Adiletta, McLachlin.  
The absentees from District VI were: Baldwin, Chickles, Orphanos, Silsby.

The Moderator, Seth Morton, assumed the Chair.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

**\*\* THE AGENDA WAS ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2018 STATE OF THE  
TOWN MEETING**

**\*\* THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Rajczewski announced that there are two new RTM members who were appointed January 14th: Karen McNicoll, District I and Catherine Kazim-Bailey, District III. The RTM now has 99 members.

The Moderator announced that a Public Hearing would be held on February 6th at 8:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium concerning a proposed ordinance for the management of plastic and paper checkout bags in Darien. This hearing sponsored by the RTM Public Works, Public Health & Safety, and TGS&A Committees, will be conducted by PW Chair Monica McNally.

19-1

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR  
\$355,000 TO UPDATE ELECTRICAL WIRING IN 3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
(HINDLEY, HOLMES & ROYLE)

**\*\* CLARA SARTORI, DISTRICT II, CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the need for air conditioning in its schools based on its experience with prolonged heatwaves during the early part of the school year over the last school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has indicated a desire to upgrade electrical panels at Hindley, Holmes and Royle Elementary Schools to allow for air conditioning; and

WHEREAS, it is requesting funding for said upgrade;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is requesting that the Town approve an appropriation from Fund Balance of Three Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$355,000) to complete this project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby authorizes and approves an appropriation of Three Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$355,000) from Fund Balance for electrical work at Hindley, Holmes and Royle Elementary Schools.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Clara Sartori, District II, read the Education Committee report (attached).

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the Committee report (attached).

Andrew Millar, District IV, asked for the definition of IEP. Clara Sartori responded that it is an Individual Education Plan for Special Education students, and there are currently 641 IEPs in the district.

Bradley Pattelli, District I, asked if \$355,000 was the number bid on or was it a placeholder? Jack Davis said they had received answers from an engineer, so it is a reasonably solid number.

**\*\* ITEM 19-1 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 83 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBER TO COMPLETE TERM OF ELISE FELDMAN WHICH EXPIRES NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

The Moderator gave a brief overview of the make-up and function of the Board of Ethics - has five members with two-year overlapping terms and no term limits. Unlike the RTM as a whole, it is subject to minority representation, thus a maximum of four members can be from the same party. This Board serves the entire town, and presently Tom Moore is the Chairman.

There was one nomination for the vacancy: James Cameron, District IV. The Moderator asked if there were any nominations from the floor; there were none.

**\*\* JAMES CAMERON, DISTRICT IV, WAS ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF ETHICS BY ACCLAMATION.**

**ED GENTILE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Gentile reviewed his report (attached), covering the town garage project, status of West/Noroton Avenue intersection project, the Noroton Heights train station upgrades to waiting area, the new platforms for the Darien train station, solar energy and an update on the replacement streetlights usage and the impact on the electric bill.

**BRIEFING JILL McCAMMON, CHAIR DHS CAFETERIA BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Ms. McCammon explained the makeup of this committee and said their plan was to expand and update the DHS cafeteria. She showed a short walk-thru of the space. The project remains on budget, and they opened the renovated cafeteria on time for the start of the school year. They went from 302 s.f. to 400 s.f.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS FROM NORWALK AND STAMFORD**

**JESSICA CASEY - CHIEF OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF NORWALK**

Ms. Casey said that this was her 16th day on the job, and this is the first group she is speaking to. She reviewed the reorganization that had recently taken place in Norwalk and spoke of the need for planning, creating opportunities, the investment piece and the marketing piece, all of which are currently being done.

**THOMAS MADDEN - DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF STAMFORD**

Mr. Madden said there is \$6,000,000 worth of development taking place in Stamford. There is a lot of transportation infrastructure. They are trying to make Stamford a very popular pedestrian and bike friendly city. They put their development downtown. There are 1,500 apartments under construction downtown plus 4,200 scheduled for the South End, 10% of which have to be affordable. All of these apartments help create a work force, as well as being friendly for retirees. The change in the tax law meant more Westchester people are moving into Stamford.

Mr. Madden said the RBS building is 96% occupied. They are at a 16-17% vacancy rate. The old GE building needs a lot of remediation. The Fairfield 5 (Stamford, Norwalk, Greenwich, Fairfield & Westport) have come together to work together and market themselves. They have held two events in NYC to sell this area, and approximately 15 companies have visited and taken tours.

Mr. Madden spoke of Mill River and the Harbor area. \$1,250,000 has been given out for a coding class in Stamford. The quality of life is going up and up and up. They have a 96% occupancy rate in apartments. They have 3 MPOs, as compared to 1 in NYC. They are working on: 1) WIFI downtown, 2) a \$11,000,000 grant to bring in micro-shuttles to downtown by 2020, and 3) cyber security.

**\*\* UPON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 9:30 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco Blois  
Telesco Secretarial Services

APPENDIX

DISTRICT I (19-1)

Baldwin, S.	yes
Barsanti	yes
Bumgardner	yes
Butler	absent
Carter	yes
Conologue	yes
Ezbiansky	absent
Haverstick	yes
Keane	yes
Kelly, C.	yes
Lublin	yes
McNicol	yes
Mecser	yes
Muchhal	yes
Pattelli	yes
Schneider	yes
von Stuelpnagel	yes

DISTRICT II

Arbuimbau	yes
Bacon	yes
Cusack	absent
Goertel	yes
Handler, S.	yes
Howe	yes
McNally	yes
Miller	yes
Mix	yes
Pommernelle	yes
Russell	absent
Sartori	yes
Thorne, B.	yes
Tie	yes
Wheeler	yes
Wilson	yes

DISTRICT III

Conniff	yes
Jack Davis	yes
Giordano	yes
Kazim-Bailey	yes
Marousek	yes
McGoey	yes
Minnick	yes
Mitchell	absent
Moore	yes
Morton	DOES NOT VOTE
Sload	yes
Washecka	absent
Woodbury	yes
Yarnell	yes
Zimmerman	yes

DISTRICT IV (19-1)

Banks	yes
Cameron	yes
Joan Davis	yes
Fiore	yes
Hardison	absent
Hauser	yes
Heitz	yes
Kemp	yes
Miceli	yes
Millar	no
Neumann	yes
Obin	yes
Rayhill	yes
Savage	yes
Terhune	yes
Whittier	absent

DISTRICT V

Adiletta	absent
Bayne, C.	yes
Bayne, D.	yes
Boulton	yes
Duffy	yes
Fiveson	yes
Grogan	yes
Hennessy	yes
Kelly, L.	yes
Martin	yes
McLachlin	absent
Moller	yes
Mosher	yes
Parent	yes
Patrick	yes
Reed	yes
Sherwood	yes
Smith	yes

DISTRICT VI

Adelman	yes
Baldwin, B.	absent
Cantavero	yes
Chickles	absent
Handler, M.	yes
Ted Hawkins	yes
Lauritzen	yes
Lucas	yes
Luz	yes
McDermott	yes
Orphanos	absent
Poli	yes
Silsby	absent
Swenson	yes
Van Loan	yes
Vogt	yes
Werner	yes

**RTM Education Committee**  
**Monday, January 29, 2019**

**Motion to move the resolution**

The Education Committee met this evening with 12 of 15 members present.

The Committee voted unanimously to support the Board of Education's request for \$ 355,000 to update the electrical wiring in three elementary schools- Hindley, Holmes and Royle.

The Committee was pleased with the depth of information provided to us on line and in person tonight by the Board of Education members and administration.

**Background**

The Board of Education has had concerns about the electrical capacity in the three buildings. The goals of this project are:

- To create a better learning environment
- To better deal with longer heat waves
- To address concerns about the effects of high classroom temperatures on children

The Committee's questions are answered as follows:

The project is being done in three schools at once to take advantage of economies of scale.

There is no need to upgrade electricity in the street but there are not enough electric panels in the three schools to distribute the load.

The intent is to have the project completed by June in time for the hot weather.

Work will be done when the students are not present in the buildings. Evenings and April vacation will be scheduled work times.

Parents are aware and are pleased.

The AC units themselves are not part of the request.

Last year the Board of Education returned about \$700,000 to the Town.

Clara Sartori, Chairman  
RTM Education Committee

## **RTM F&B Report**

**January 28, 2019**

**(19-1) Consideration and action on Board of Education request for \$355,000 to update electrical wiring in 3 elementary schools (Hindley, Holmes & Royle)**

I am Jack Davis, District 3, Chairman of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee.

The RTM F&B Committee met on Wednesday, January 24, 2019 with 11 of 15 members constituting a quorum.

This resolution is for the purchase of electrical panels at the three schools mentioned to enable increased electrical usage as slots are currently full or not available on existing panels.

- The installation of these panels, if approved, will be available for the current school years warm months.
- It will not require increased power into the school and therefore will not change the rate.
- Tokeneke is not included as it has central air and Ox Ridge is due to have a major building project.
- The BOE believes these panels will meet future electrical needs to the schools.

Not included in this appropriation is the cost of new air conditioners. There are already 59 units in these three schools due to IEP or other conditions. Forty six new units will be purchased and paid for within the current FY 19 BOE budget – estimated cost approximates \$36,000.

The BOE did provide F&B an analysis of the potential incremental electrical cost. Based upon an 8 hour running cycle, the three different units daily cost would be approximately \$104 or less than \$7000 if run a maximum 67 days during the school year.

The committee voted 11 in favor, no opposed and no abstentions and recommends the same to the full RTM.

Respectfully submitted

Jack Davis

RTM Finance & Budget Committee Chair

## Public Works & RTM - Project Updates – January 2019

- Town DPW Garage Project:

- Building Committee (Liz Bacon, Martha Banks, James Bosek, Jennifer Hill, Kip Koons, Joe Pagliarulo & Jon Zagrodzky)
- Hiring of C.M. and the GMP Contract
  - Produced a final budgetary cost
  - Reduced the likelihood of “Value Engineering” parts of the project.
- Construction Phase...”Occupied Building” & through a winter season...
- Schedule...
  - Original schedule proposed during bidding...15 months
  - CM proposed schedule...12 months
  - Actual schedule...11 months
- Budget...
  - Original overall budget...\$6.545 million (presented to RTM)
  - Final Balance...\$547,000
- Building Project Process and Procedures Review...aka...”Lessons Learned Summary”
  - Consistency of personnel beginning at the design phase continuing through the construction phase of the project.
  - Do your homework early...eliminate as many of the unforeseen conditions as possible to control change orders
  - Have a knowledgeable “Owners Representative” and a strong “Building Committee”.

- West Avenue/Noroton Avenue Intersection Project:

- Submitted LOTCIP (Local transportation Capital Improvement Program) Funding request to WestCOG - March 2016
- Special Appropriation for \$160,000 in March 2017
- Hired Fuss & O’Neill in April 2017 from approved WestCOG list.
- Project Preliminary (30%) Cost Estimate = \$1,200,000 (from Fuss & O’Neill)
- Submitted plans to DOT for review in August 2017...then the issue with a Master Municipal Agreement (MMA) and then the “Budget Freeze”
- November 13, 2018 the town received a “Commitment to Fund” Letter from the State DOT assuring us that the construction and Right of Way easements as estimated will be funded (1,174,000 after refining the estimate).
- On 1/16/19 signed agreement to hire a firm to conduct the proper appraisals.
- On 1/24/19 there will be a public information meeting at the Town Hall @7pm.
- Possible bid date of September 2019.
- Tentative Construction start date of April 2020.

## Public Works & RTM - Project Updates – January 2019

- Noroton Heights Train Station Upgrades:
  - October 2018 – RFP proposals received for the “Feasibility Study and Preliminary Concept design for Noroton Heights Railroad Station and Pedestrian Overpass”
  - December 2018 – Conducted interviews of the sort listed firms.
  - January 2019 – Currently negotiating a contract with selected firm Gregg Wies & Gardner Architects (GWG) out of New Haven.
  - Design Budget = \$75,000.
  
- Darien Train Station – Platform Project:
  - July 2018 – Town was unofficially notified of the platform project by the DOT.
  - September 2018 – Town met on site with DOT representatives to discuss the project and review the Town Elevator replacement project coordination.
  - DOT tentatively agreed to include the elevator replacement project in the Platform replacement project.
  - Platforms shall be made of Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) which will be heated.
  - Tentative Schedule of Construction Start Date is 2022.
  
- Solar Energy Projects:
  - Darien Police Department
    - Started October 2018 & completed November 2018
    - Average Annual Savings = \$7,200 per year over 20 years
  - Darien DPW Garage
    - Started November 2018 & completed December 2018
    - Average Annual Savings = \$5,800 per year over 20 years
  - Darien Town Hall
    - Started January 2019 & to be completed by February 2019
    - Average Annual Savings = \$10,750 per year over 20 years
  
- Street Light Purchase - Impact to Budget
  - Purchased the Street September 2016 and immediately began LED conversion.
  - Completed LED conversion April 2017 (both phases)
  - Purchase Price = \$155,000 to Eversource
  - LED Retro-Fit Cost = \$237,000 to Tanko Lighting
  - Eversource Rebate = \$71,000
  - Maintenance costs average = \$13,000 compared to \$10,000 per analysis.
  - Pre-Purchase: 6 year average (FY11 to FY16) Electric Costs = \$160,000
  - Post-Purchase: 2 year average (FY17 to FY18) Electric Costs = \$83,000