

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2010**

Attendees: Debra McGarry Ritchie, Bohdana Puzyk, Sarah Seelye (acting Chairperson), Flora Smith (*), Diana M. Nizolek, Eugene F. Coyle (*), Holly Kelly, Frank B. Kemp, Joi Reiner Gallo, Spencer McIlmurray, Samuel B. Schoomaker III

Absent: Thomas W. Moore, (Jack Whitehead has resigned from the RTM)

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. with a motion for D. Ritchie to be appointed temporary secretary to record minutes for meeting scheduled through June 2010. With 11 of 12 members present there is a quorum.

A motion was made by S. Schoomaker to elect S. Seelye as permanent Chairperson to TGS&A, and this motion was seconded by H. Kelly. The vote to elect S. Seelye was unanimous.

1. Approval of Minutes:

There was one correction to the minutes from February 8, 2010 to the spelling of Diana. A motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2010 meeting was made by J. Gallo and seconded by F. Smith.

2. Status of Tax Abatement Ordinance

H. Kelly updated TGS&A on the status of the tax abatement ordinance. Currently there is an amendment that will give the Board of Finance approval over proposed Tax Abatements. Wayne Fox, Town Counsel has conveyed to H. Kelly that TGS&A should only consider whether the amendment or the ordinance as drafted would cause a conflict to the current charter or any existing ordinance. It is the opinion of Mr. Fox and the tax abatement subcommittee that there is not conflict. The committee was unanimous in its decision that there is not conflict with the existing charter (*F. Smith was not present for the vote).

There was discussion as to whether TGS&A should vote on any additional concerns regarding the proposed ordinance. Spencer McIlmurray drafted an educational report that discusses the pros and cons of the proposed tax abatement ordinance. TGS&A approved by unanimous consent to submit this report to Karen Armour and request that the report be submitted to Rules Committee for inclusion as an addendum to the next RTM meeting(*F. Smith was not present for the vote).

3. Status of Health Code Review

B. Puzyk attended a meeting with Wayne Fox, Town Counsel and David Knauf, Health Director to discuss the proposed changes to the ordinances. The items that are regulations will be removed from the ordinance and appear on a separate addendum. This will allow changes to be made will greater ease. The Health Director may propose fees, but the Board of Selectman has the authority to enact. Fines will remain part of the ordinances with fees on a separate addendum. This will be voted on at the March 15th Rules Committee meeting. This is primarily a housekeeping issue with no substantive changes. This was tabled until later in the meeting in order to have copies of the Proposed Amendment of Health Ordinance be distributed to the committee.

Later in the meeting, the vote was unanimous to approve the amendment to the Health Ordinance (*G. Coyle and F. Smith were not present for the vote)

4. Status of Fees/Fines Issue There is no report

5. TGS&A Issues

The committee reviewed the charge for the Charter and Ordinance Revision Initiative (CHOR). Previous Chairman sent letters to various town department heads for their inputs on whether there is a need for any clean up to their specific areas of the ordinances. For now the committee will review the Code of Ordinances.

Adjournment: With no additional business, meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm by unanimous consent
Recorded by Debra McGarry Ritchie