

# MINUTES

## TOWN OF DARIEN REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING TGS&A COMMITTEE

February 2, 2009

**Call to Order:** There being quorum with 10 out of 12 members present, the Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** John T. Whitehead (Chairman), Simon Y. Balian, Angus James Cameron, Charles W. Grimes, Frank B. Kemp, Thomas W. Moore, S. Lloyd Plehaty, Bohdana Puzyk, Sarah C. Seelye, and John O. Wolcott.

Also in attendance were RTM Moderator Karen Armour and Town Counsel Wayne Fox.

**Absent:** Eugene F. Coyle and Samuel V. Schoonmaker.

**Agenda:** The proposed Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the January 12, 2009 were approved as presented. Wolcott, not having received the Minutes, abstained.

**Discussion with RTM Moderator:** The RTM Moderator, Karen Armour, attended the meeting to clarify the Rules Committee ("RC") charge regarding the review of the Code of Ordinances and to answer members' questions.

Ms. Armour explained that the RC's charge grew out of the November 2008 referendum that voted down the proposed new Charter. One of the major arguments against the proposed Charter was that the RTM had the authority to amend the current Charter and that if the proposed Charter was adopted, the Town would lose that flexibility and any future changes would be only through a cumbersome referendum process. The RC decided to start the process through modest steps by tasking the TGS&A to look through the Code and present proposals for changes that would update or correct the Code and more generally streamline it. This is a less controversial process which would give the RC the confidence to move from the Code to Charter Amendments. The RC realizes that the TGS&A is not a Committee dedicated to this task and that this is expected to be a multi-year process.

The RC is expecting a report from TGS&A on February 9, 2009 about this. The RC is looking for a plan or roadmap that the TGS&A will follow in implementing this charge.

Addressing the concerns of members, the Moderator stated that the RC understands there will be need for additional support and legal services and that she has

asked the Town Administrator to take that into account in the budget. Town Counsel stated that he did not expect this to be a major additional cost. The Moderator further stated that there was no intent to keep the Committee busy with “little things” and thus keep it away from serious consideration of Charter related issues. Moreover, revising the Code first would also help the Committee through a learning curve that would make it easier to handle the more difficult tasks in the future. The RC also thinks that this process is more responsive to what the community wants.

The Committee thanked the Moderator for attending the meeting and providing clarifications. The Moderator thanked the Committee for the work being done and departed.

**Solid Waste Ordinance:** The Committee briefly discussed the draft changes prepared by Public Works Director Bob Steeger and expressed appreciation for his response. The Committee discussed some additional changes that need to be made. The Committee also determined that involving the RTM Public Works Committee at this stage would be more productive.

The Committee unanimously asked the Chairman to discuss the matter with the Public Works Committee Chairman and in his discretion decide whether a joint meeting of the two committees would be more productive and if so, call such a meeting.

In order to proceed with the Solid Waste ordinance, Mr. Wolcott volunteered to review it further, receive the comments of other members and communicate with Mr. Steeger in order to revise it further and report back at the next meeting.

**Dog Ordinance:** Mr. Plehaty reported on the current status of the proposed ordinance. Public Health and Safety Committee, which has the primary cognizance, has not yet acted on it. Moreover there are concerns that some of the provisions in the final draft are inconsistent with other laws and regulations and the Police Department has concerns about the resolution of the fines. This proposed ordinance is pending but does not seem to be a priority for any committee at this time.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:00 pm.

Recorded by:  
/S/ Simon Y. Balian  
Acting Clerk