

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:34 a.m.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman Betsy Hagerty-Ross; Board of Finance Chairman Elizabeth Mao, State Representative Terrie Wood and RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye. Also in attendance were Board of Education Vice-Chairman Michael Harman and Town Administrator Kate Buch.

Mrs. Stevenson began by introducing Kate Buch as the new Town Administrator. The members of OPC know Mrs. Buch from her previous position as the Director of Finance. They extended their congratulations and welcomed her to OPC.

RTM Moderator

Mrs. Seelye stated that the RTM agenda for the meeting held on September 28, 2015 will include acceptance of the Public Works Union contract and the transfer of the property at 32 Hoyt Street to the Board of Education. Additionally, four guest speakers will include: School Superintendent Dr. Dan Brenner, Police Chief Duane Lovello, Director of Parks & Recreation Pam Gery and Chairman Frank Huck of the Consolidated Services Working Group.

A blight ordinance is under reconsideration. Changes made in Hartford now allow for quantitative measures to be evaluated rather than personal objectivity.

Board of Education

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross stated that with the exception of a new computerized bus system, the start to the school year has been very smooth. She explained some changes taking place regarding SAT, ACT and SBAC testing and the progress that continues to take place in the special education programs including the implementation of mentors at the high school. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross reported that Dr. Brenner makes surprise visits to the schools, sporting events and a variety of other student activities. He brings a fresh, positive energy to the district.

Board of Finance

Mrs. Mao stated that the Board of Finance closed out the FY 2014-2015. Auditors have completed their work reviewing the Town's finances and are presently reviewing the BOE finances.

Mrs. Mao will step down from the BOF when her term ends in November. The members of OPC took this opportunity to express their appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the town.

State Representative

Mrs. Wood shared her concern over the prospect of General Electric moving out of CT and the ramifications to the State's budget as corporations continue to move out of state.

Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Stevenson attended an informational session held in Stamford by DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker on the new "Let's Go CT" program. The program will address aspects of transportation throughout the state.

Dr. of Human Services Olive Hauser contacted Mrs. Wood to help facilitate communication between her department and the CT Department of Social Services for assistance with processing Medicare, Medicaid and Husky applications.

Town Administrator

To improve payroll processing Mrs. Buch is overseeing the implementation of time clocks for Town employees. She looks forward to holding off-site training sessions for Department Heads. Possible topics of training may include: risk management, managing staff and improving customer service.

First Selectman

Mrs. Stevenson hopes to be successful in the upcoming elections as she looks to continue her work managing the Town and in particular: improving transportation, working with Eversource to expand gas lines in Darien, working with the Recycling Center Committee to become a Clean Energy Community, establishing a wellness program for employees and supporting three proposed major developments (two in Noroton Heights and one on downtown Darien).

Lastly, Mrs. Stevenson continues to be gratified by her work with a very professional, proactive and congenial group of elected officials in our COG. Presently the group is merging the two office spaces into one central office in the Newtown area. Moving forward they will begin to query the group on services that may be combined to bring additional cost savings to constituents.

Mrs. Stevenson called for a motion to approve the OPC minutes of June 18, 2015, Liz Mao moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Betsy Hagerty-Ross and approved by a vote of 4-0. Sarah Seelye abstained. Mrs. Stevenson called for a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Hagerty-Ross so moved seconded by Liz Mao and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary