

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
January 19, 2012

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Selectman, Jerry Nielsen; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Ms. Hagerty-Ross stated that the Board of Education is currently working through the budget process. The group discussed how special education affects the BOE budget. Ms. Hagerty-Ross commented that the Science Resource Based Identification (SRBI) evaluations have been helpful in accessing students' needs so that early intervention may benefit students educationally, while heading off additional education costs in the future.

Board of Finance

Ms. Mao noted that the Board of Finance has reviewed the terms of the teachers' contract and determined that it's a realistic proposal. The Board is concerned with the strategic direction of special education and the additional personnel for the foreign language program in elementary schools. Overall, the Town's audited financials look good.

Ms. Mao inquired if a gas line is planned for 35 Leroy Ave., the future BOE central offices location. Ms. Ross and Mr. Kilduff explained a gas line is being considered and is expected to be part of the final plans for 35 Leroy Ave.

State Representative

The new Legislative session in Hartford begins February 8, 2012. One item up for consideration is a voting initiative to allow people to register to vote on election days.

Ms. Wood said the Department of Transportation (DOT) will be asked to initiate a walkway safety plan for along Hoyt Street to the Talmadge Hill train station.

RTM Moderator

The RTM meets on Monday, January 23, 2012. Ms. Armour stated that the RTM agenda contains consideration and action on the contract between the Darien BOE and the Darien Education Association and a discussion of the proposed plastic bag ordinance. The TGS&A Committee will address the term limit for the Social Services Commission to make it consistent with other commission terms.

First Selectman

Ms. Stevenson commented that the BOS are beginning the budget process. She suggested that Ms. Armour encourage the Chairs of the RTM committees to attend the Performance Measures meeting taking place Saturday, January 21, 2012 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in room 206 at Town Hall. Ms. Mao said she would mention to the new member of the BOF that he may find the meeting informative.

The Allen O'Neill project is moving forward. Additionally, Ms. Stevenson asked Ms. Wood how she can aid the reworking of 8-30g Affordable Housing legislation to accommodate reasonable developments within communities. Ms. Wood will facilitate communication with other communities experiencing similar difficulties with this legislation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary