

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
June 21, 2012

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; State Representative, Terrie Wood; Planning & Zoning Chairman, Fred Conze and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Terrie Wood held an informational meeting at the Darien Library on June 20, 2012 to provide constituents with updates from the Connecticut 2012 legislative session.

The fiscal year ends on June 30th and the State expects to have a budget deficit of \$300 million dollars.

Mandatory creation of Council of Governments (COGs) was approved by the General Assembly which forces the conversion of regional planning associations into a COG. Some members of the group mentioned a concern that not all areas of an established new COG region would have the same issues or the same approach to dealing with issues.

Finally, Mrs. Wood mentioned that she attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the road expansion project on I95 between exits 14 and 15. The project will include widening bridges and is expected to be completed in February of 2015.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Mrs. Mao conveyed that the Board of Finance has approved the Town Hall Union contract. The contract has been passed to the RTM for final approval at its Special Meeting on June 25, 2012.

Considering the low available interest rates the BOF has been looking at opportunities to refund bonds. They discussed restructuring to save costs vs. leveling out the high payment years. The Board seeks to balance the two options.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross stated that the Darien High School graduation took place with a little over three hundred graduates in the Class of 2012. The overall Darien student enrollment continues to grow and may cause a need for some additional class sections this coming fall. The group discussed possible student population scenarios for the Allen O'Neill and Prococcini developments.

The BOE has been notified by the DEEP that several schools need to replace their oil tanks. Thus far, there appear to be no leaks but Mr. Conze suggested setting up a reserve account for remediation in case leaks do exist.

PLANNING & ZONING CHAIRMAN

Mr. Conze announced that the appeal of the 8-30g Moratorium was thrown out. The Town still has proposed 8-30g projects to deal with, but he was pleased with this favorable outcome.

Mr. Conze stated that Mr. John McClutchy, part of the development team for the Allen O'Neill housing project, will update the Planning & Zoning Commission on various aspects of the development at a meeting tentatively scheduled for July 10, 2012. Mrs. Stevenson would like to see the developers and the Housing Authority take a more responsive roll regarding neighbors' concerns.

Additionally, a second hearing on outdoor lights at Darien High School is taking place on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 206 of Town Hall.

FIRST SELECTMAN

The Board of Selectmen was given, at its June 18th meeting, a report by the Senior Affordable Housing Initiative in support of a senior housing development on Edgerton Street. At the same meeting, neighbors opposed to the housing spoke out in favor of other uses for the land, including a new playing field. Also at its June 18th meeting, the Board accepted advice from the Advisory Health Board that plastic bags do not generate a health issue in Town and so therefore the Health Department should not be the enforcement arm of the suggested plastic bag ordinance. The Board decided that it might be more appropriate for Rich Jacobson, the Town's Environmental Protection Officer, to enforce the proposed ordinance.

Mrs. Stevenson and Karl Kilduff have been looking into parking technology that could alleviate some parking issues in Town.

Finally, Mrs. Stevenson recently met with Ben Barnes, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Secretary, to learn more about Transit Oriented Developments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary