

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
September 13, 2012

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. in Room 119 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; RTM Chairman, Karen Armour; Board of Finance member, Joe Duwan; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; State Representative, Terrie Wood; Planning & Zoning Chairman, Fred Conze and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff. Also present was Sarah Seeley.

PLANNING & ZONING CHAIRMAN

Mr. Conze stated that a major focus of the Planning and Zoning Commission over the next few months will be to work on affordable housing overlay zones. These zones would take pre-existing zoning and allow for affordable housing within the zones, focusing on commercial properties and allowing for mixed use.

Mr. Conze was pleased to announce that the Department of Justice has terminated its discrimination lawsuit against the Town.

In response to Mr. Conze's concerns over above the ground oil tanks at some of the schools, Ms. Hagerty-Ross stated that the above ground tanks are temporary and should be back underground during the summer of 2013. Finally, Mr. Conze requested that the Board of Education remind its refuse haulers not to pick up garbage at the schools before 7:00 a.m. due to noise concerns. Some discussion of noise related issues in Town ensued.

Mr. Conze left at 8:24 a.m.

RTM

Mrs. Karen Armour mentioned that the RTM meets on September 24th. The Plastic Bag Ordinance will be under consideration at that meeting. A discussion about the proposed ordinance took place.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Terrie Wood noted that the State ended the fiscal year with a deficit, which was anticipated. The practice of borrowing money to cover the deficit was questioned.

Affordable housing continues to be a major concern throughout the State. Mrs. Wood plans to hold a meeting with some of our local Planning & Zoning officials and commissioners to gain insight into the best approach to amending the present affordable housing requirements.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Mr. Duwan was pleased to announce that the August 7th refinancing of notes produced a very successful savings to the Town of approximately four million dollars. The Town's debt service has been smoothed out over the years and is being managed well. Mrs.

Stevenson commented that the Town's goal is to keep its debt manageable, not necessarily to have no debt.

Mr. Duwan clarified some concerns that the Board of Finance had over recent transfer requests.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross said that Board of Education is waiting for State reimbursement funds for the Middlesex Middle School new roof project. The Board is hopeful that the project will go to bid in January and the work will be done during the summer of 2013.

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross mentioned that the new housing development (62 units) called Kensett will hold its Grand Opening on September 20th. The Board expects this development to generate a growth in student population, as will The Heights housing development now in progress.

FIRST SELECTMAN

Mrs. Stevenson mentioned that she continues to deal with ongoing issues such as sidewalks and flooding. Additionally, she spoke of a desire to modify how the Town's budget books are presented to give a clearer snapshot of expenditures and revenues within the various departments.

Mrs. Stevenson is looking into improved fleet management, establishing better ways to account for vehicle maintenance. With regards to maintenance costs for new Town facilities, Mrs. Stevenson commented that the maintenance costs are presently undetermined but it's important for the Town to take proper care of the investments we've made in these buildings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary